TINKLE PRESENTS

Tantri the Mantri 5

ROYALLY WICKED

A Selection of Stories from over 30 Years of Tinkle

Tantri the Mantri 5

ROYALLY WICKED

Tantri is a minister at the court of King Hooja in a town called Hujli. He is the man who protects the King from danger and acts of treason—he is also the man behind them! That's right. Tantri the Mantri wants to become the King of Hujli, by hook or crook. Alas! All his plans to dethrone Hooja backfire on him in the most comical and bizarre ways. But this mantri is relentless and will try any trick, no matter how ludicrous, to get his hands on the crown.

Tantri the Mantri was first illustrated by Ashok Dongre in 1984, and is currently in the hands of Vineet Nair.

Readers Speak:

After reading the Tantri the Mantri story, I laughed a lot. It is just fun to see Tantri's plans backfiring on him. — **R. Arimugan,** *Chennai*

Tantri the Mantri is very funny. His expertly-laid plans boomerang just as expertly. — **Anandita Chittapragada,** *Pune*

Series like Tantri the Mantri are all-time favourites. — **Vivek Ghate,** *Mangalore, Karnataka*

Tantri the Mantri is just so cool. — **Anannya Senapati,** *Assam*

I love the idea (of Tantri); it's just superb! — **Indira Iyer**

Tantri the Mantri is too good! The inventions made for our dearest Tantri are so different, innovative and brilliant! — **Anshika Chadha,** *Noida*

Tantri the Mantri is the funniest story of all. — **Tharun Senthilkumar,** *Chennai*

"Now, get to reading my stories so you can appreciate me some more. And there are some brand new content pages in this book...your future king's gift to you. Enjoy! And if you like what you read, write to me at tinklemail@ack-media.com"

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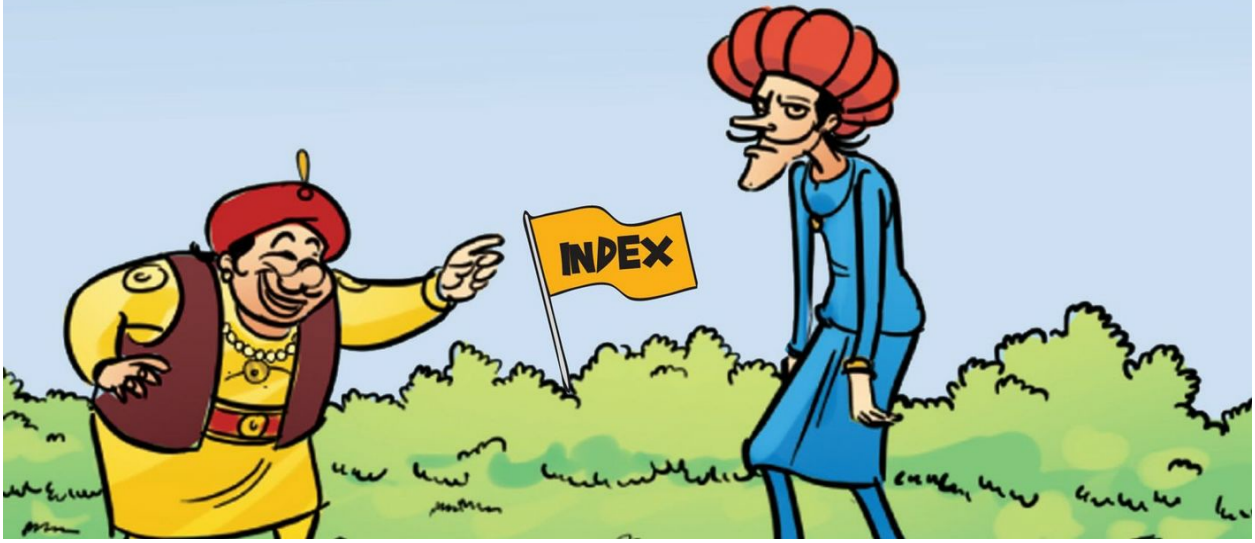
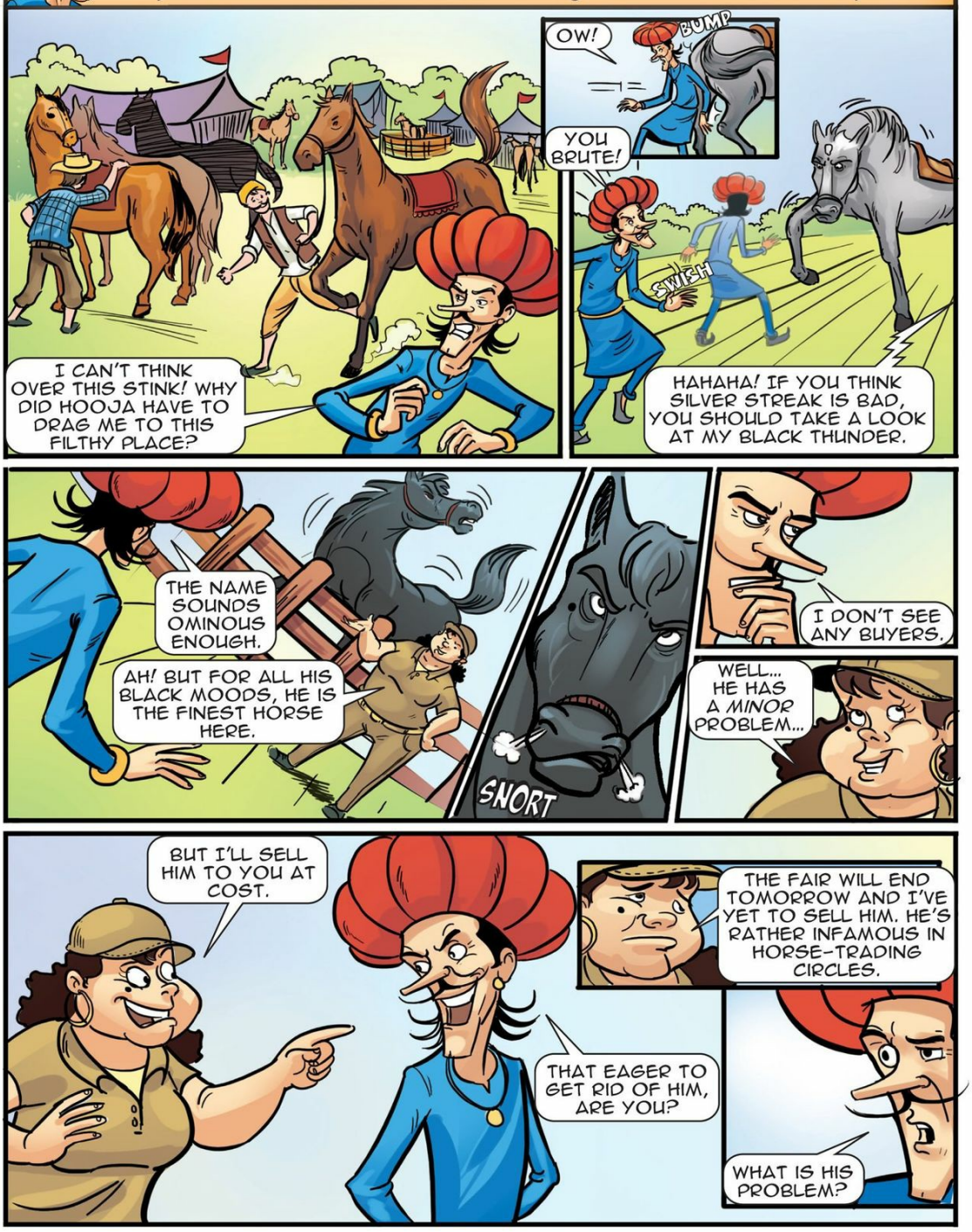
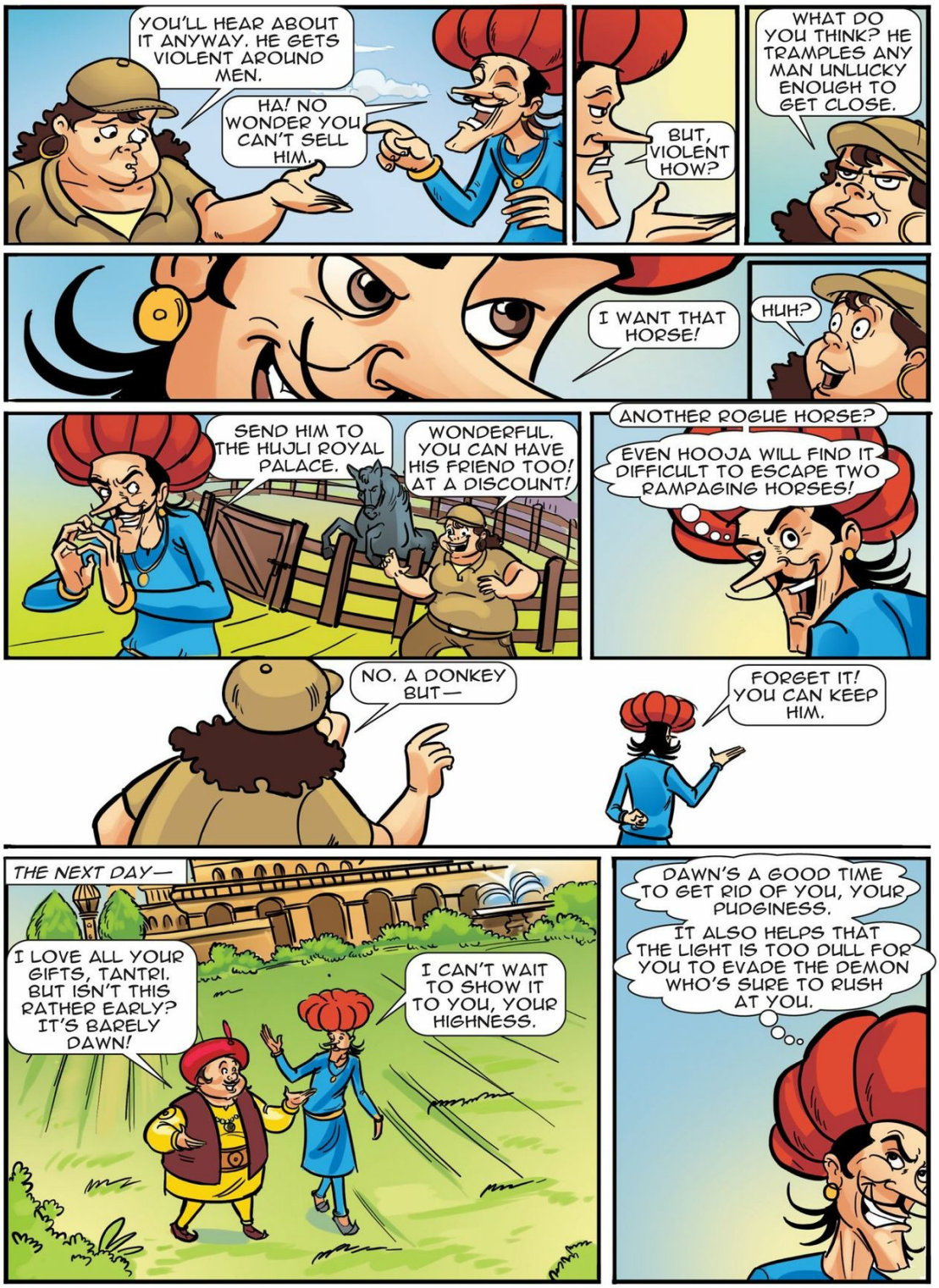
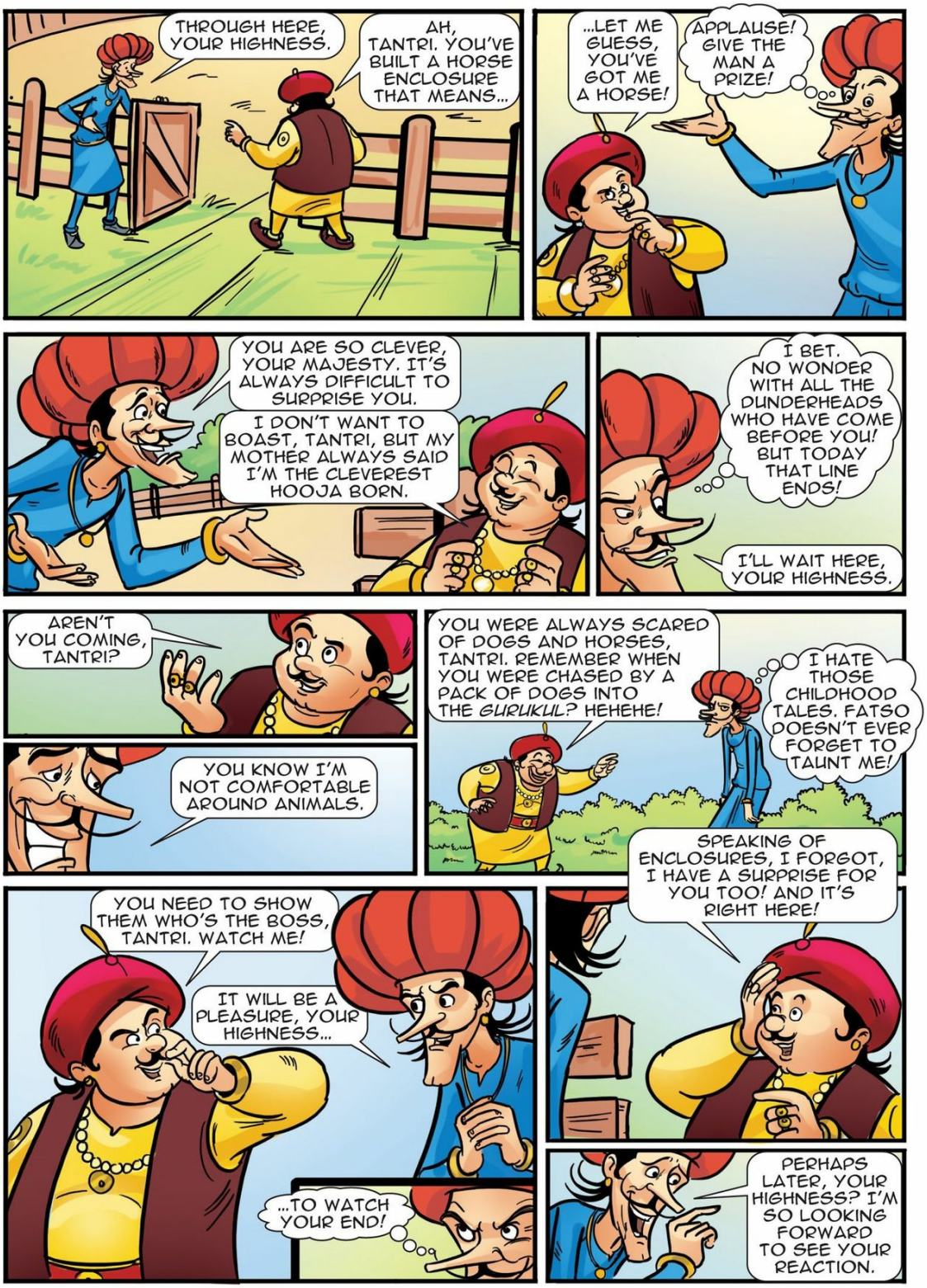


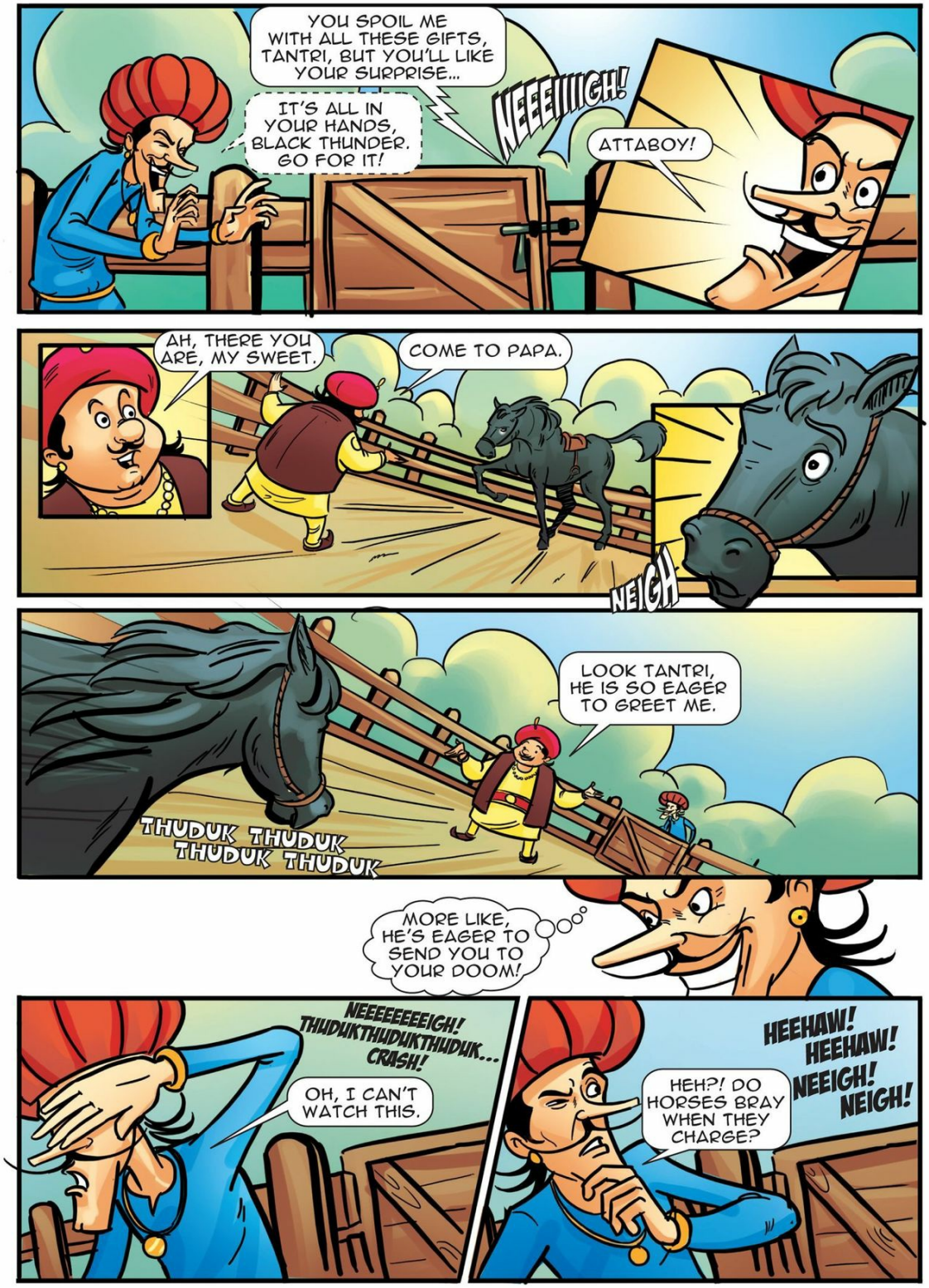
Tantri the Mantri TRUE FRIENDS

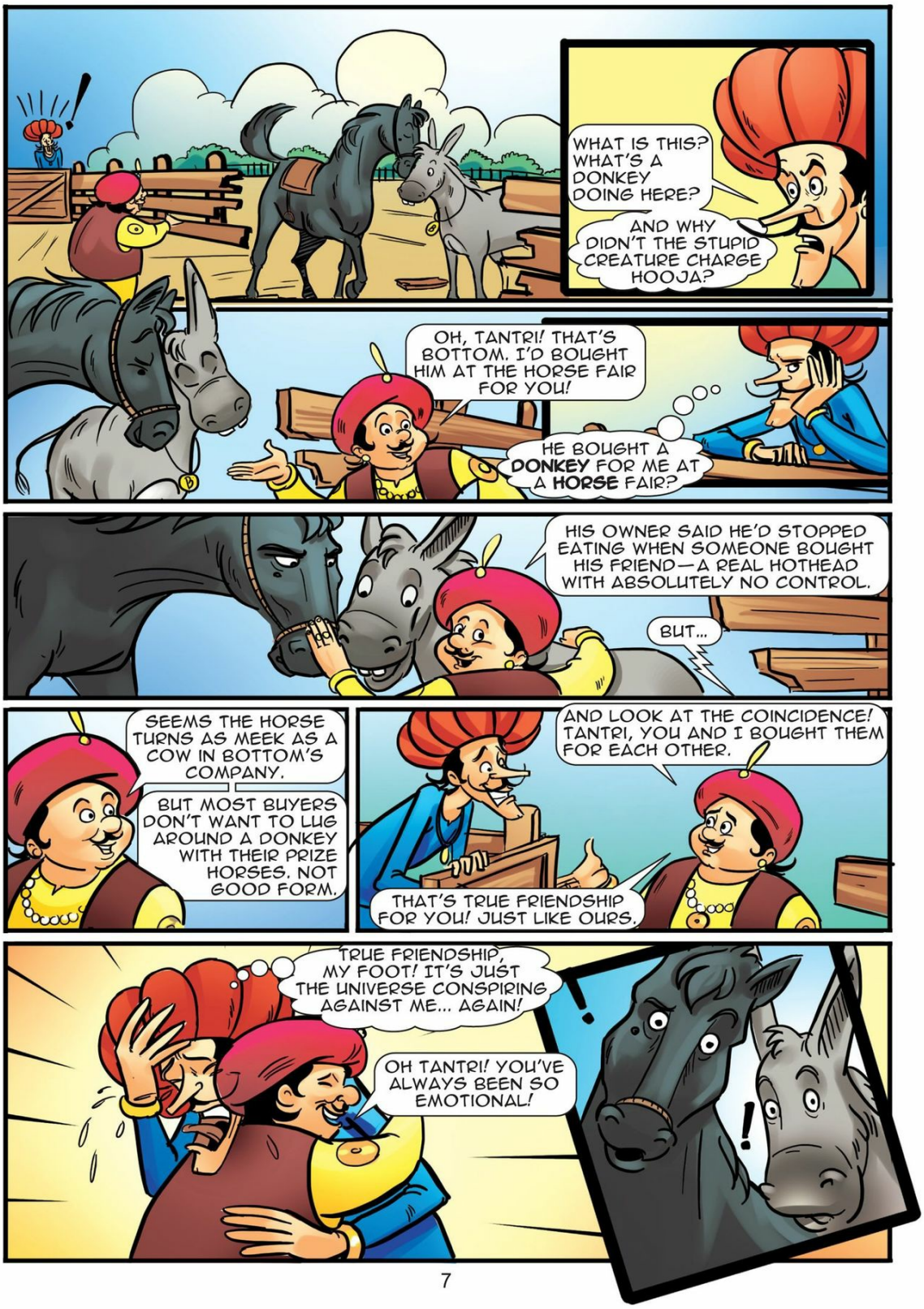
Story & Script Rajani Thindiath
Pencils & Inks Vineet Nair
Colours Raghavendra Kamath
Letters Pranay Bendre




YOU'LL HEAR ABOUT IT ANYWAY. HE GETS VIOLENT AROUND MEN.
HA! NO WONDER YOU CAN'T SELL HIM.
BUT, VIOLENT HOW?
WHAT DO YOU THINK? HE TRAMPLES ANY MAN UNLUCKY ENOUGH TO GET CLOSE.
I WANT THAT HORSE!
HUH?
SEND HIM TO THE HUJLI ROYAL PALACE.
WONDERFUL. YOU CAN HAVE HIS FRIEND TOO! AT A DISCOUNT!
ANOTHER ROGUE HORSE?
EVEN HOOJA WILL FIND IT DIFFICULT TO ESCAPE TWO RAMPAGING HORSES!
NO. A DONKEY BUT—
FORGET IT! YOU CAN KEEP HIM.
THE NEXT DAY—
I LOVE ALL YOUR GIFTS, TANTRI. BUT ISN'T THIS RATHER EARLY? IT'S BARELY DAWN!
I CAN'T WAIT TO SHOW IT TO YOU, YOUR HIGHNESS.
DAWN'S A GOOD TIME TO GET RID OF YOU, YOUR PUDGINESS.
IT ALSO HELPS THAT THE LIGHT IS TOO DULL FOR YOU TO EVADE THE DEMON WHO'S SURE TO RUSH AT YOU.


THROUGH HERE, YOUR HIGHNESS.
AH, TANTRI. YOU'VE BUILT A HORSE ENCLOSURE THAT MEANS...
...LET ME GUESS, YOU'VE GOT ME A HORSE!
APPLAUSE! GIVE THE MAN A PRIZE!
YOU ARE SO CLEVER, YOUR MAJESTY. IT'S ALWAYS DIFFICULT TO SURPRISE YOU.
I DON'T WANT TO BOAST, TANTRI, BUT MY MOTHER ALWAYS SAID I'M THE CLEVEREST HOOJA BORN.
I BET. NO WONDER WITH ALL THE DUNDERHEADS WHO HAVE COME BEFORE YOU! BUT TODAY THAT LINE ENDS!
I'LL WAIT HERE, YOUR HIGHNESS.
AREN'T YOU COMING, TANTRI?
YOU KNOW I'M NOT COMFORTABLE AROUND ANIMALS.
YOU WERE ALWAYS SCARED OF DOGS AND HORSES, TANTRI. REMEMBER WHEN YOU WERE CHASED BY A PACK OF DOGS INTO THE GURUKUL? HEHEHE!
I HATE THOSE CHILDHOOD TALES. FATSO DOESN'T EVER FORGET TO TAUNT ME!
SPEAKING OF ENCLOSURES, I FORGOT, I HAVE A SURPRISE FOR YOU TOO! AND IT'S RIGHT HERE!
YOU NEED TO SHOW THEM WHO'S THE BOSS, TANTRI. WATCH ME!
IT WILL BE A PLEASURE, YOUR HIGHNESS...
...TO WATCH YOUR END!
PERHAPS LATER, YOUR HIGHNESS? I'M SO LOOKING FORWARD TO SEE YOUR REACTION.


YOU SPOIL ME WITH ALL THESE GIFTS, TANTRI, BUT YOU'LL LIKE YOUR SURPRISE...
IT'S ALL IN YOUR HANDS, BLACK THUNDER. GO FOR IT!
NEEEIIIIGH!
ATTABOY!
AH, THERE YOU ARE, MY SWEET.
COME TO PAPA.
NEIGH
LOOK TANTRI, HE IS SO EAGER TO GREET ME.
THUDUK THUDUK THUDUK THUDUK
MORE LIKE, HE'S EAGER TO SEND YOU TO YOUR DOOM!
NEEEEEEEEIGH! THUDUKTHUDUKTHUDUK... CRASH!
OH, I CAN'T WATCH THIS.
HEEHAW! HEEHAW! NEEIGH! NEIGH!
HEH?! DO HORSES BRAY WHEN THEY CHARGE?


WHAT IS THIS? WHAT'S A DONKEY DOING HERE?
AND WHY DIDN'T THE STUPID CREATURE CHARGE HOOJA?
OH, TANTRI! THAT'S BOTTOM. I'D BOUGHT HIM AT THE HORSE FAIR FOR YOU!
HE BOUGHT A **DONKEY** FOR ME AT A **HORSE** FAIR?
HIS OWNER SAID HE'D STOPPED EATING WHEN SOMEONE BOUGHT HIS FRIEND—A REAL HOTHEAD WITH ABSOLUTELY NO CONTROL.
BUT...
SEEMS THE HORSE TURNS AS MEEK AS A COW IN BOTTOM'S COMPANY.
BUT MOST BUYERS DON'T WANT TO LUG AROUND A DONKEY WITH THEIR PRIZE HORSES. NOT GOOD FORM.
AND LOOK AT THE COINCIDENCE! TANTRI, YOU AND I BOUGHT THEM FOR EACH OTHER.
THAT'S TRUE FRIENDSHIP FOR YOU! JUST LIKE OURS.
TRUE FRIENDSHIP, MY FOOT! IT'S JUST THE UNIVERSE CONSPIRING AGAINST ME... AGAIN!
OH TANTRI! YOU'VE ALWAYS BEEN SO EMOTIONAL!

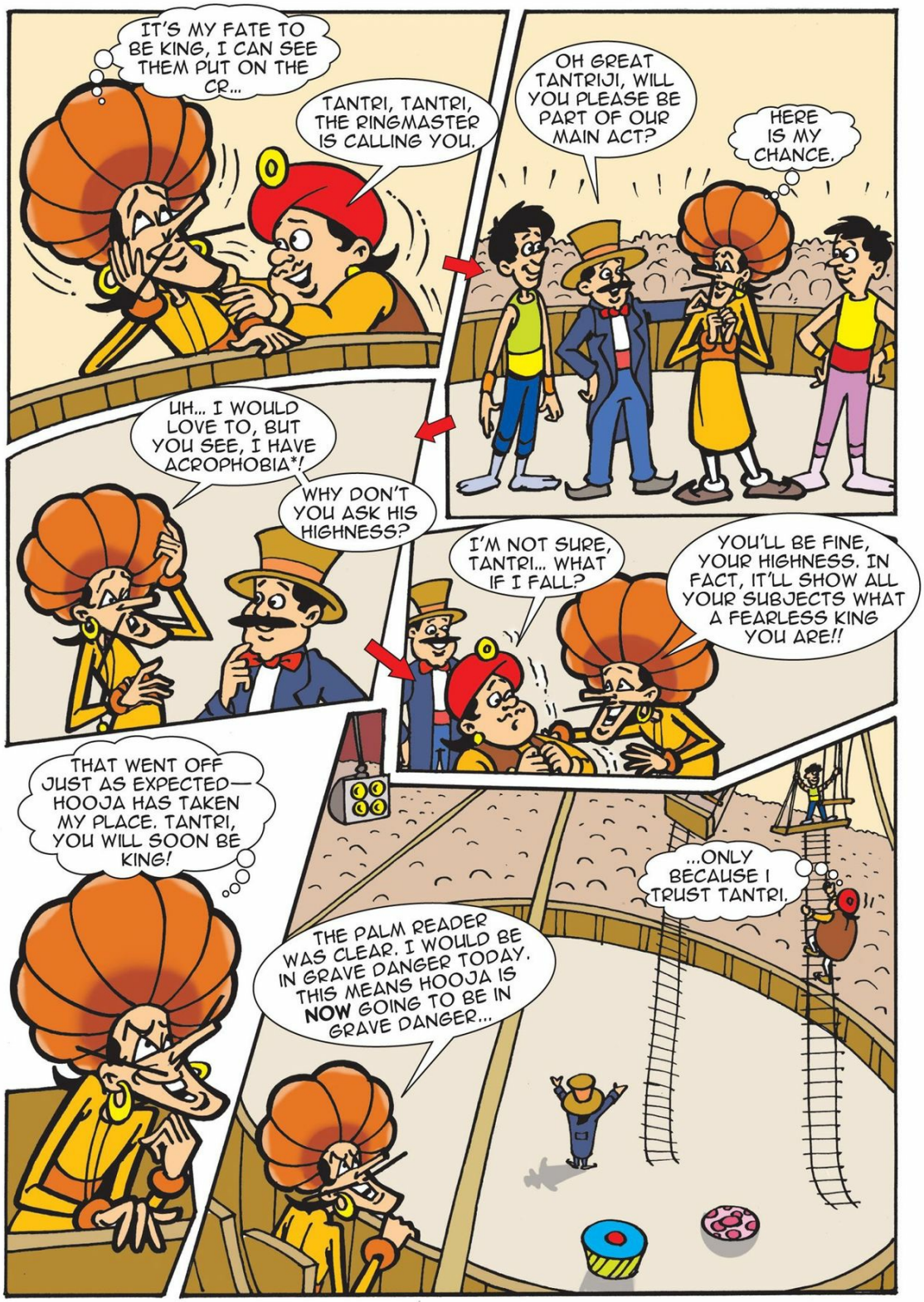
Tantri the Mantri

Fortunes Foretold

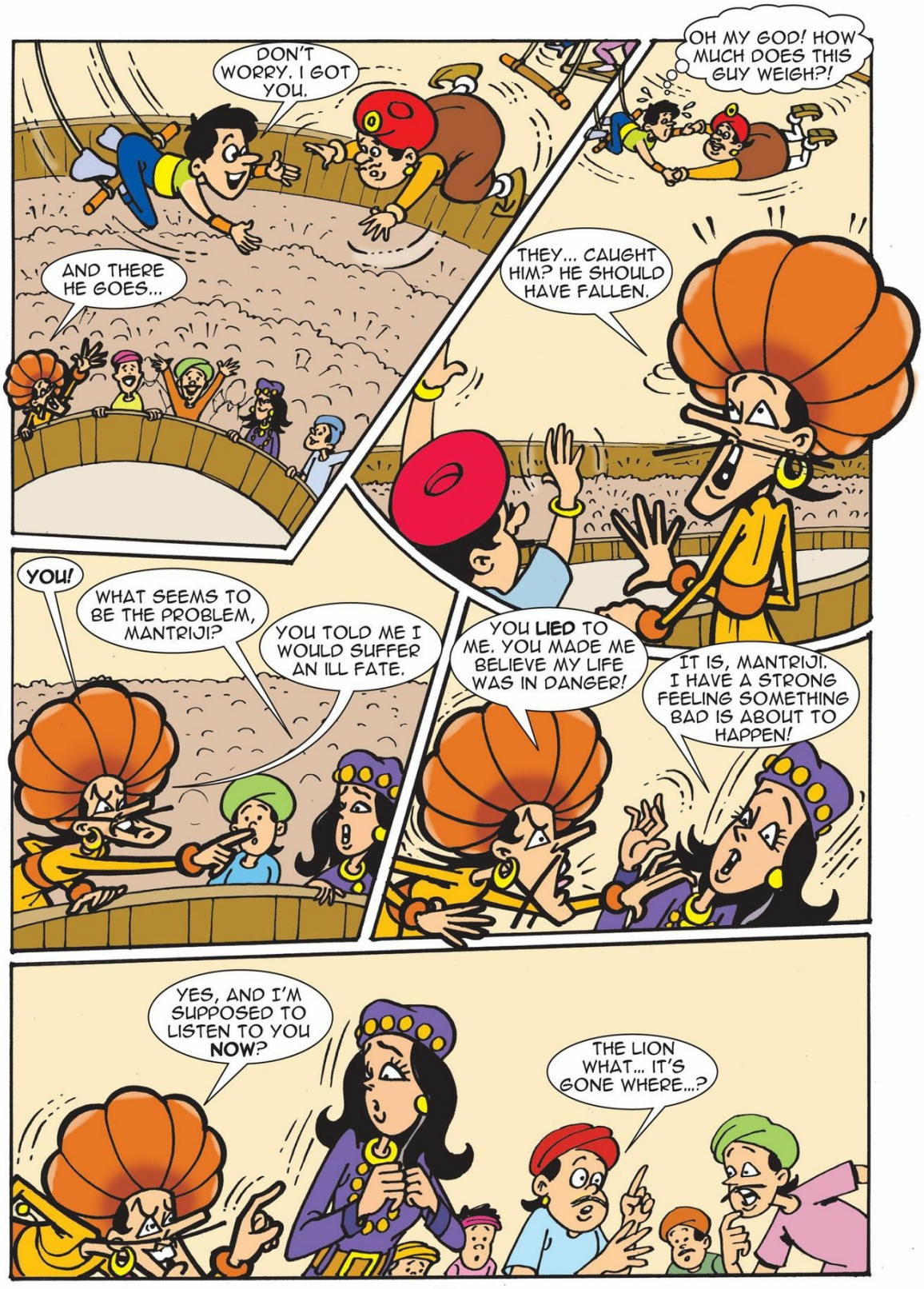
Story & Script Sean D'mello
Pencils & Inks Prachi Killekar
Colours Umesh Sarode
Letters Pranay Bendre

COME MY DEAR TANTRI, LET'S GO TO THE FOOD STALLS.
BAH! WHO AM I KIDDING? IT WOULD NEVER WORK. IF ONLY THERE WAS A SURE SHOT WAY TO KNOW IF IT IS MY DESTINY TO BE KING.
Find out if you're meant to be a pauper or a prince...
Get your palm read!
Get your palm read!
MAYBE THIS WILL ANSWER ALL MY DOUBTS.
WHERE ARE YOU GOING, MY DEAR TANTRI?
I THINK I'M GOING TO GET MY PALM READ, YOUR HIGHNESS.
WELCOME. I AM ROSANNA, THE WONDERFUL!
YES, YES, CAN WE GET ON WITH THE READING NOW?
OH MANTRIJI, I FORESEE GRAVE DANGER IN YOUR LIFE!!

DANGER? WHAT DANGER?
I CAN'T TELL, BUT YOU ARE GOING TO ENCOUNTER SOMETHING LIFE-THREATENING!
HOWEVER, INSTEAD OF FEARING FOR HIS SAFETY, THIS GOT TANTRI'S MIND RACING.
MAYBE WHEN THE DANGER PRESENTS ITSELF, I CAN DIVERT IT TO HOOJA.
YOUR HIGHNESS, THE FINAL ACT IS ABOUT TO BEGIN. WE SHOULD GO IN, YES?
YES, MY DEAR TANTRI, LET'S GO.
I NEVER KNEW YOU LOVED THE CIRCUS SO MUCH, TANTRI!
WELL, WITH THE CIRCUS, YOUR HIGHNESS, YOU NEVER KNOW WHAT CAN HAPPEN!!
JOIN ME IN WELCOMING, THE MARVELLOUS AND DEATH-DEFYING, MARVIN AND DARVIN!!
THIS IS IT, THIS IS IT. ANYTIME NOW, OPPORTUNITY WILL COME KNOCKING. I AM ABOUT TO BE KING.

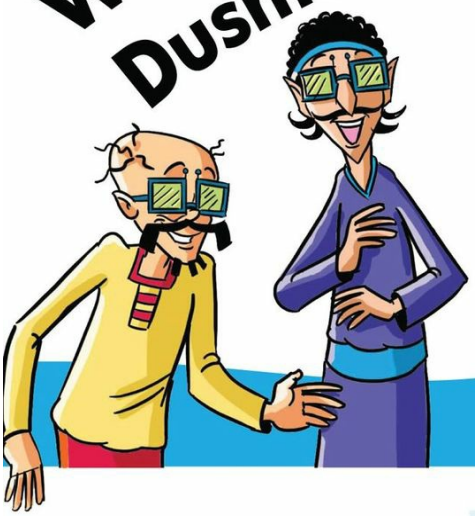


*FEAR OF HEIGHTS


DON'T WORRY. I GOT YOU.
AND THERE HE GOES...
OH MY GOD! HOW MUCH DOES THIS GUY WEIGH?!
THEY... CAUGHT HIM? HE SHOULD HAVE FALLEN.
YOU!
WHAT SEEMS TO BE THE PROBLEM, MANTRIJI?
YOU TOLD ME I WOULD SUFFER AN ILL FATE.
YOU LIED TO ME. YOU MADE ME BELIEVE MY LIFE WAS IN DANGER!
IT IS, MANTRIJI. I HAVE A STRONG FEELING SOMETHING BAD IS ABOUT TO HAPPEN!
YES, AND I'M SUPPOSED TO LISTEN TO YOU NOW?
THE LION WHAT... IT'S GONE WHERE...?

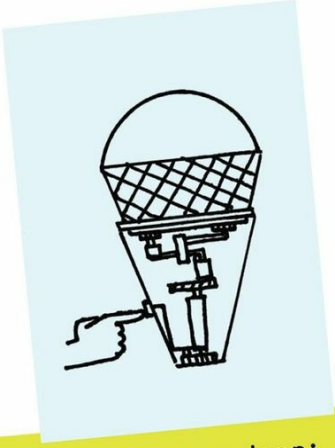
I'M TELLING YOU I CAN SENSE IT!
SENSE WHAT?
YES, THE LION ISN'T IN HIS CAGE. NO ONE HAS ANY CLUE WHERE HE'S GONE.
THAT DANGER IS JUST ROUND THE CORNER.
RUBBISH!
STUPID... (MUMBLE GRUMBLE) PALM READER... (MUMBLE) DOESN'T KNOW ANYTHING.
YEAH, I HEARD THEY TOLD EVERYONE TO STAY IN THE TENT UNTIL THEY CAN FIND HIM.
LIKE ANYONE WOULD BE FOOLISH ENOUGH TO LEAVE THE TENT.
THERE'S NOTHING ROUND THE CORNER.
EXIT
ERR... TANTRI, WE JUST HOPE YOU HAVE FAST LEGS!

Wicked Inventions by Dushta and Vichitra!



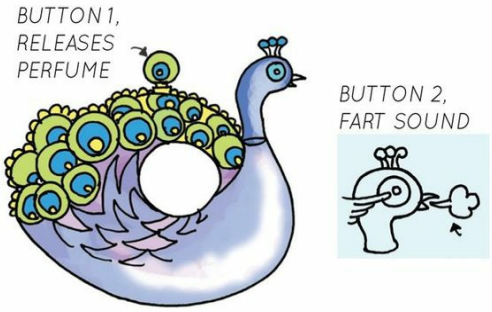
Hi kids! Dushta and I, as you know, are quite busy. Tantriji keeps us on our toes, making us churn invention after invention to get rid of Hooja! Some of our inventions, though, do not always make Tantri's cut, for some reason. So we decided to sell them to you instead!

Text: Amanda D'souza
Illustrations: Priya Panicker
Layout: Jitendra Patil



The motorised ice cream cone with hidden poison:
We made this one for Hooja because Hooja loves to eat AND is super lazy. The cone rotates the scoop of ice cream for you, so you don't have to lick around it like a lowly animal! Clean and efficient. Comes both with and without the hidden poison! Order now for only 16,777 Hurees! (Hujli rupees)

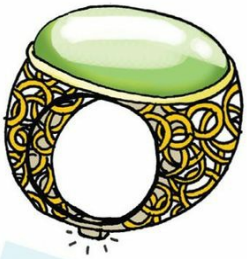
The fart spray and sound stimulator:

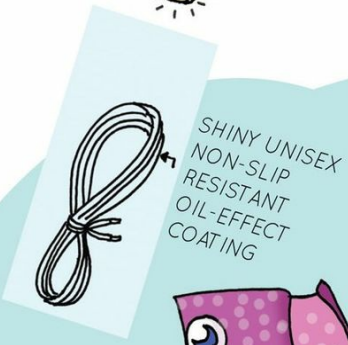


Tehehe, this one, we admit, we made just to be naughty. The gadget is shaped like a perfume bottle and has a button on the side to release the audio. Spraying the can would release a fart-like smell (which we sourced from pigeon poo) and pressing the button creates the fart noise. Perfect for trapping an enemy in a stinky situation! Only 9997 Hurees!

The pinching ring:

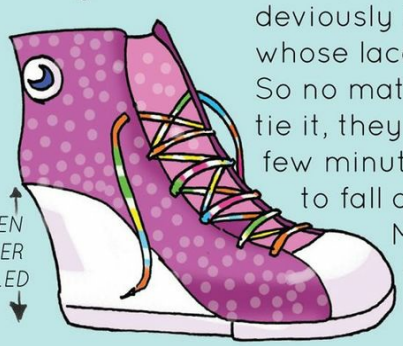
This one Tantri ignored because it only hurts the wearer, nothing more. However, we see it as a clever invention! It is a mechanised pincher, disguised as a ring! Gift your enemy this ring, and trick them into thinking they're your friends. Then slowly enjoy as the ring constantly pinches them for no good reason! Try it in various colours, just for 688 Hunnas (Hujli paise)!





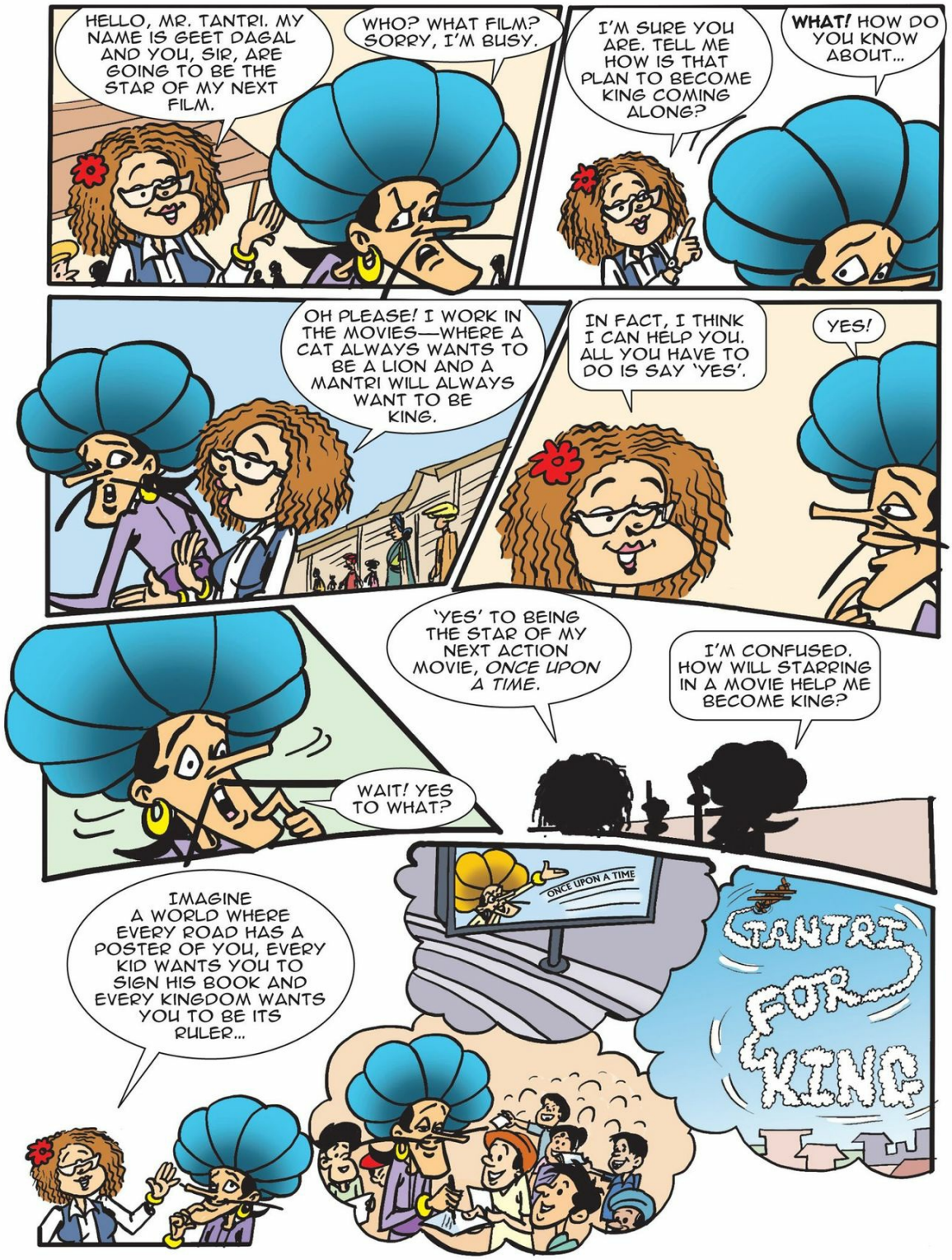
The perpetually untied shoelaces:

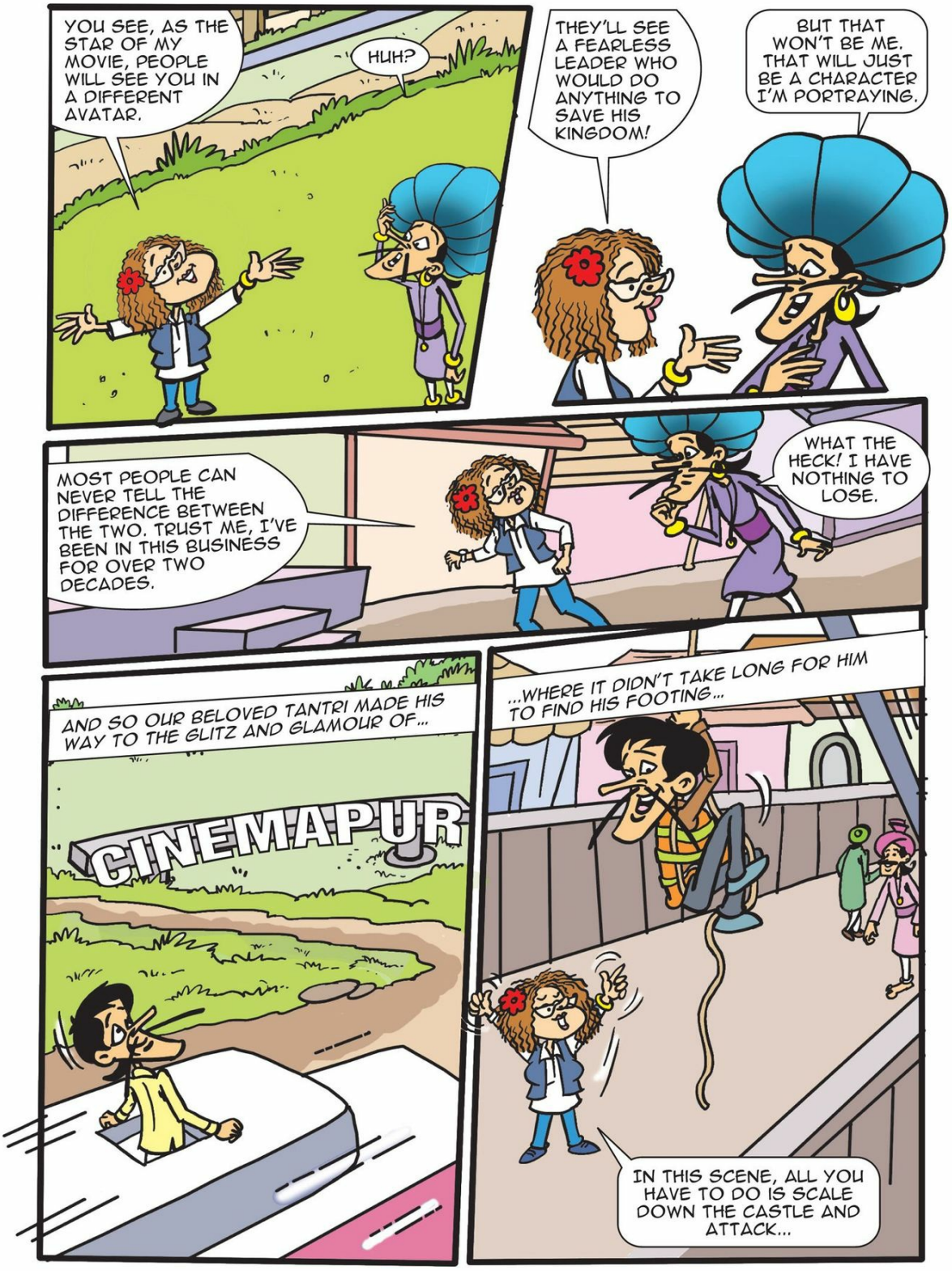
You know how tripping over your shoelaces is a common annoyance? Well, now you can trap the enemy by gifting them these deviously beautiful shoes, whose laces are always untied! So no matter how much they tie it, they will untangle in a few minutes, causing the victim to fall and you to laugh! Muhahahaha! Only 344 Hunnas!

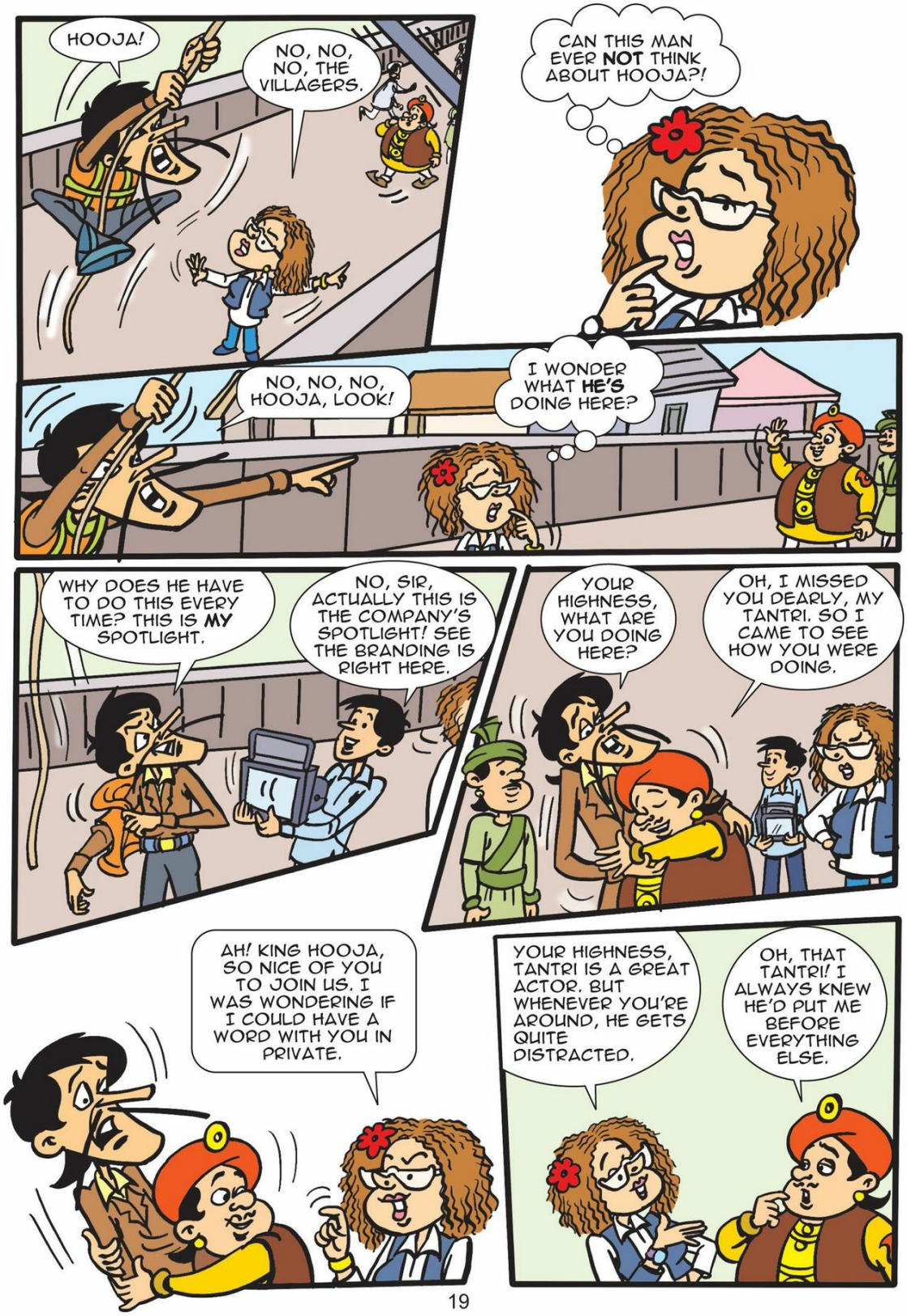


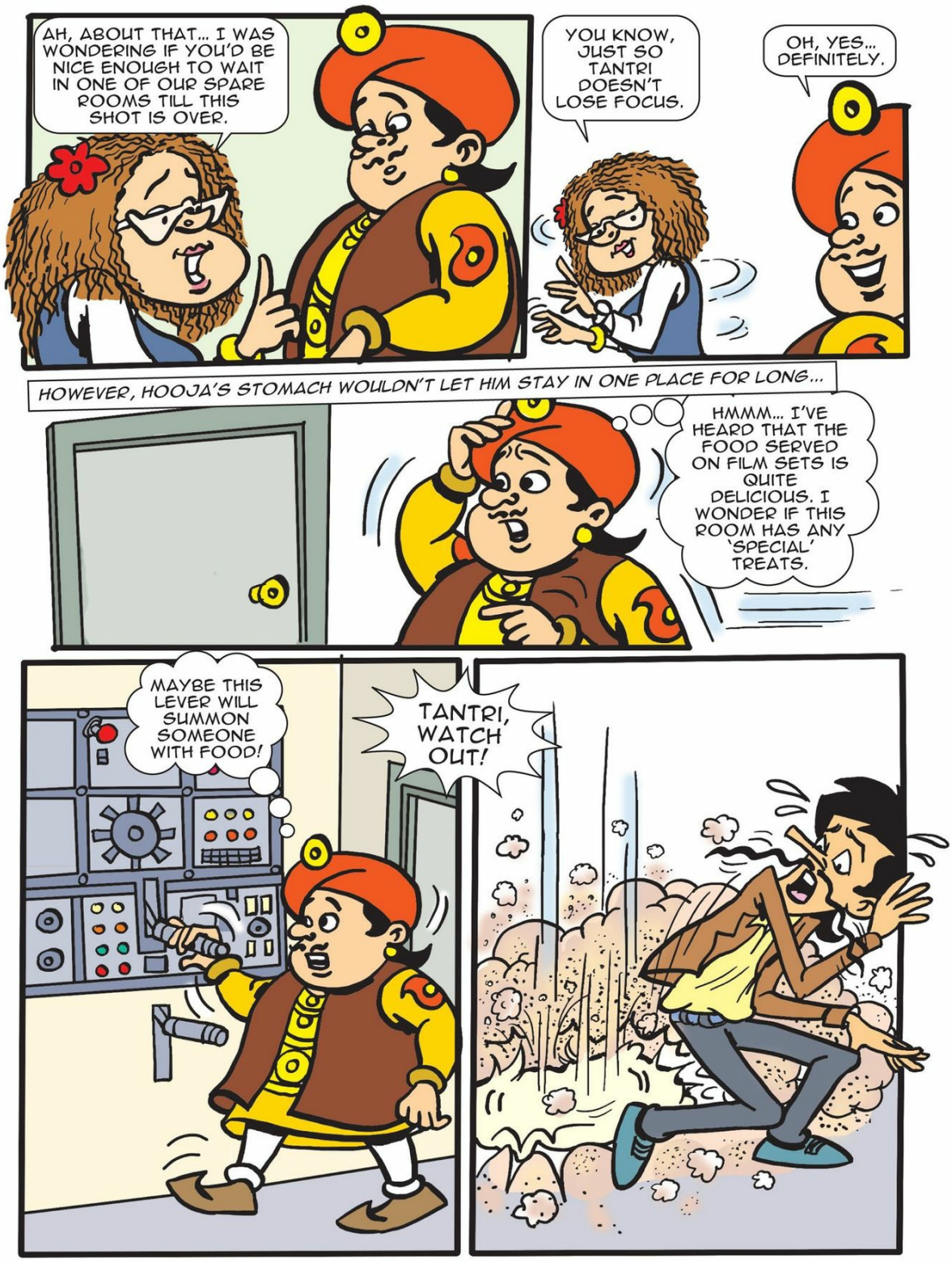
Tantri the Mantri in Cinemapur

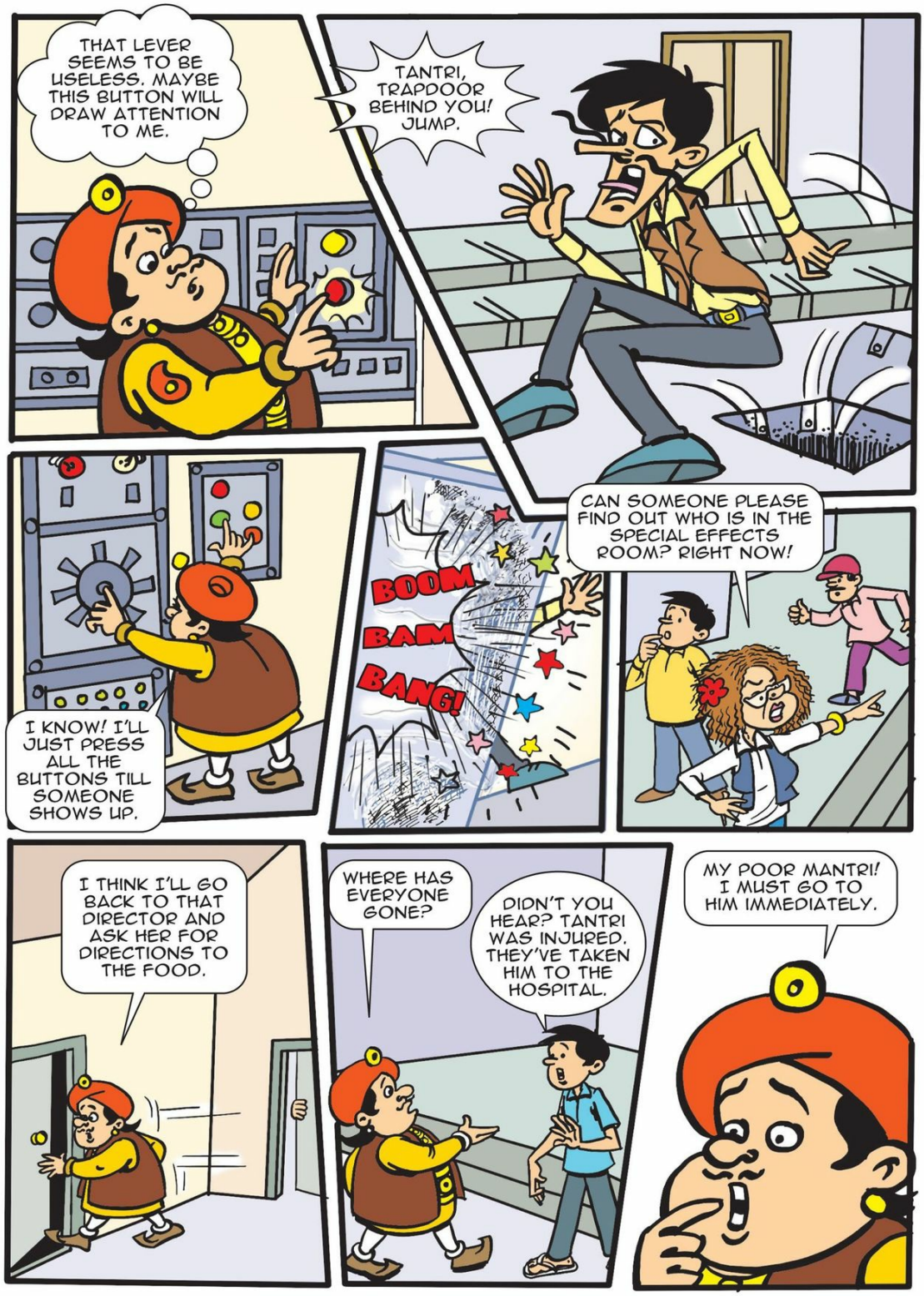
Story Vilas M. Bhat | **Script** Sean D'mello | **Pencils & Inks** Prachi Killekar | **Colours** Umesh Sarode | **Letters** Prasad Sawant


HELLO, MR. TANTRI. MY NAME IS GEET DAGAL AND YOU, SIR, ARE GOING TO BE THE STAR OF MY NEXT FILM.
WHO? WHAT FILM? SORRY, I'M BUSY.
I'M SURE YOU ARE. TELL ME HOW IS THAT PLAN TO BECOME KING COMING ALONG?
WHAT! HOW DO YOU KNOW ABOUT...
OH PLEASE! I WORK IN THE MOVIES—WHERE A CAT ALWAYS WANTS TO BE A LION AND A MANTRI WILL ALWAYS WANT TO BE KING.
IN FACT, I THINK I CAN HELP YOU. ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS SAY 'YES'.
YES!
'YES' TO BEING THE STAR OF MY NEXT ACTION MOVIE, *ONCE UPON A TIME*.
I'M CONFUSED. HOW WILL STARRING IN A MOVIE HELP ME BECOME KING?
WAIT! YES TO WHAT?
IMAGINE A WORLD WHERE EVERY ROAD HAS A POSTER OF YOU, EVERY KID WANTS YOU TO SIGN HIS BOOK AND EVERY KINGDOM WANTS YOU TO BE ITS RULER...
ONCE UPON A TIME
TANTRI FOR KING


YOU SEE, AS THE STAR OF MY MOVIE, PEOPLE WILL SEE YOU IN A DIFFERENT AVATAR.
HUH?
THEY'LL SEE A FEARLESS LEADER WHO WOULD DO ANYTHING TO SAVE HIS KINGDOM!
BUT THAT WON'T BE ME. THAT WILL JUST BE A CHARACTER I'M PORTRAYING.
MOST PEOPLE CAN NEVER TELL THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE TWO. TRUST ME, I'VE BEEN IN THIS BUSINESS FOR OVER TWO DECADES.
WHAT THE HECK! I HAVE NOTHING TO LOSE.
AND SO OUR BELOVED TANTRI MADE HIS WAY TO THE GLITZ AND GLAMOUR OF...
CINEMAPUR
...WHERE IT DIDN'T TAKE LONG FOR HIM TO FIND HIS FOOTING...
IN THIS SCENE, ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS SCALE DOWN THE CASTLE AND ATTACK...


HOOJA!
NO, NO, NO, THE VILLAGERS.
CAN THIS MAN EVER **NOT** THINK ABOUT HOOJA?!
NO, NO, NO, HOOJA, LOOK!
I WONDER WHAT **HE'S** DOING HERE?
WHY DOES HE HAVE TO DO THIS EVERY TIME? THIS IS **MY** SPOTLIGHT.
NO, SIR, ACTUALLY THIS IS THE COMPANY'S SPOTLIGHT! SEE THE BRANDING IS RIGHT HERE.
YOUR HIGHNESS, WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
OH, I MISSED YOU DEARLY, MY TANTRI. SO I CAME TO SEE HOW YOU WERE DOING.
AH! KING HOOJA, SO NICE OF YOU TO JOIN US. I WAS WONDERING IF I COULD HAVE A WORD WITH YOU IN PRIVATE.
YOUR HIGHNESS, TANTRI IS A GREAT ACTOR. BUT WHENEVER YOU'RE AROUND, HE GETS QUITE DISTRACTED.
OH, THAT TANTRI! I ALWAYS KNEW HE'D PUT ME BEFORE EVERYTHING ELSE.

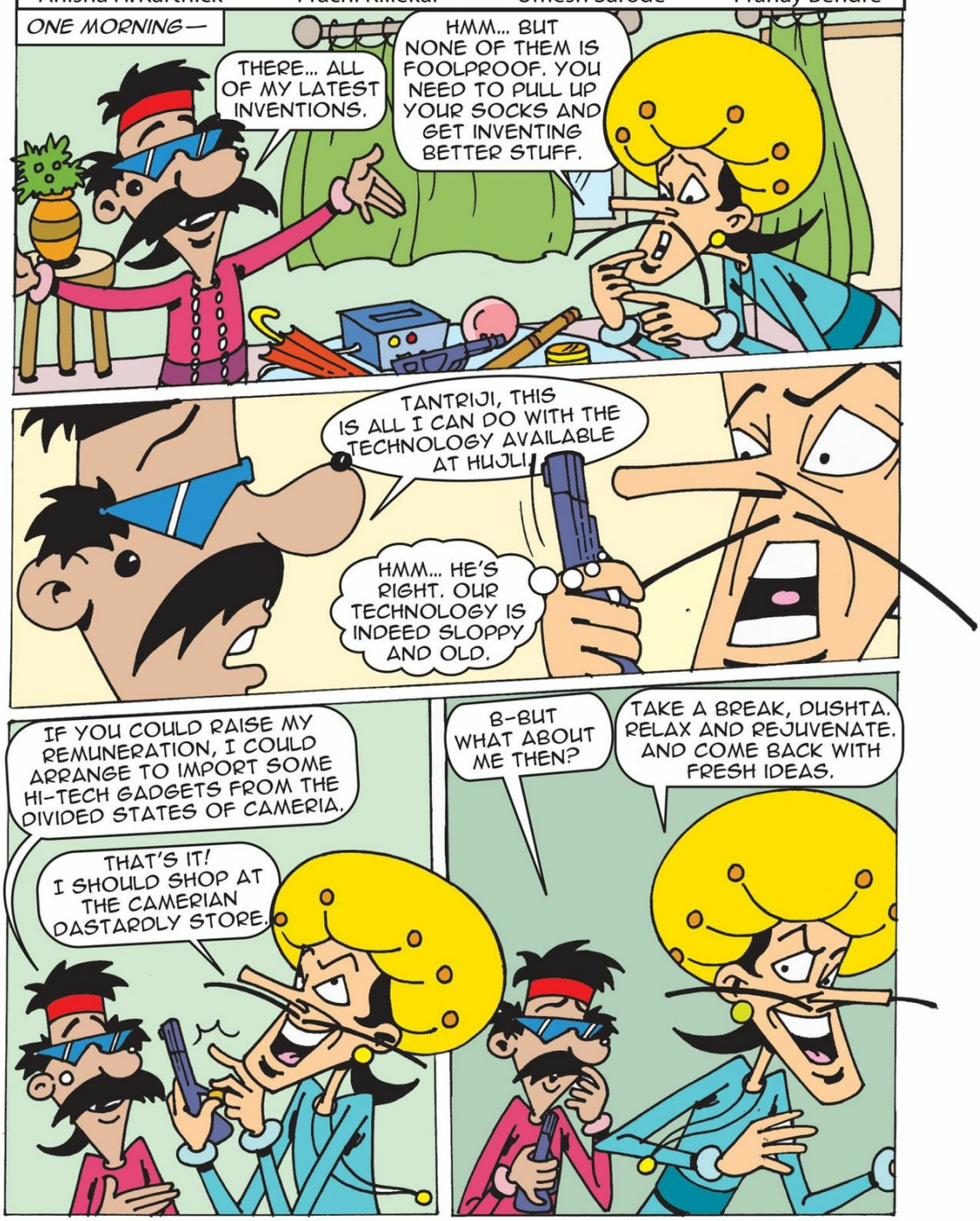

AH, ABOUT THAT... I WAS WONDERING IF YOU'D BE NICE ENOUGH TO WAIT IN ONE OF OUR SPARE ROOMS TILL THIS SHOT IS OVER.
YOU KNOW, JUST SO TANTRI DOESN'T LOSE FOCUS.
OH, YES... DEFINITELY.
HOWEVER, HOOJA'S STOMACH WOULDN'T LET HIM STAY IN ONE PLACE FOR LONG...
HMMM... I'VE HEARD THAT THE FOOD SERVED ON FILM SETS IS QUITE DELICIOUS. I WONDER IF THIS ROOM HAS ANY 'SPECIAL' TREATS.
MAYBE THIS LEVER WILL SUMMON SOMEONE WITH FOOD!
TANTRI, WATCH OUT!


THAT LEVER SEEMS TO BE USELESS. MAYBE THIS BUTTON WILL DRAW ATTENTION TO ME.
TANTRI, TRAPDOOR BEHIND YOU! JUMP.
I KNOW! I'LL JUST PRESS ALL THE BUTTONS TILL SOMEONE SHOWS UP.
BOOM
BAM
BANG!
CAN SOMEONE PLEASE FIND OUT WHO IS IN THE SPECIAL EFFECTS ROOM? RIGHT NOW!
I THINK I'LL GO BACK TO THAT DIRECTOR AND ASK HER FOR DIRECTIONS TO THE FOOD.
WHERE HAS EVERYONE GONE?
DIDN'T YOU HEAR? TANTRI WAS INJURED. THEY'VE TAKEN HIM TO THE HOSPITAL.
MY POOR MANTRI! I MUST GO TO HIM IMMEDIATELY.

AT THE HOSPITAL—
LET'S SEE, MR. TANTRI. YOUR LEG IS FRACTURED, YOUR HEAD'S A MESS AND YOUR BLOOD PRESSURE IS AT AN ALL-TIME HIGH. YOU NEED FIVE MONTHS OF REST.
FIVE MONTHS! IMPOSSIBLE. WHAT ABOUT MY MOVIE?
OH, MY DEAR TANTRI, I CAME AS SOON AS I HEARD.
WHAT IS THIS FATSO DOING HERE?
HOOJA, I WONDER IF...
NOOOO!
A WEEK LATER—
IT'S REALLY DARK IN HERE. DO YOU MIND OPENING THE BLINDS?
SURE, JUST A MINUTE.
ONCE UPON A TIME
IN CINEMAS. THIS MARCH
BOO HOO HOO!

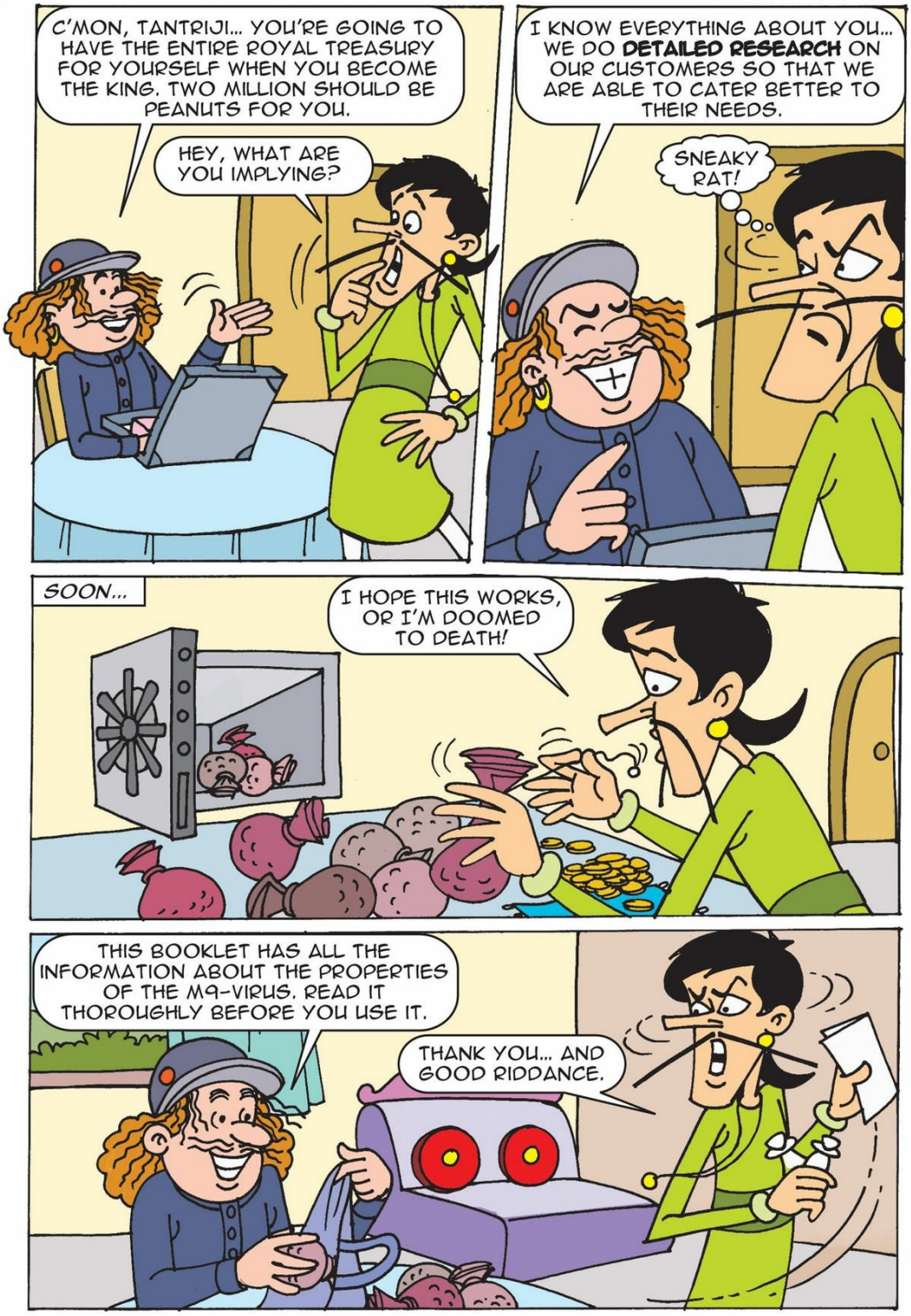
Tantri the Mantri THE VIRAL ATTACK

Story & Script Anisha H. Karthick
Pencils and Inks Prachi Killekar
Colours Umesh Sarode
Letters Pranay Bendre

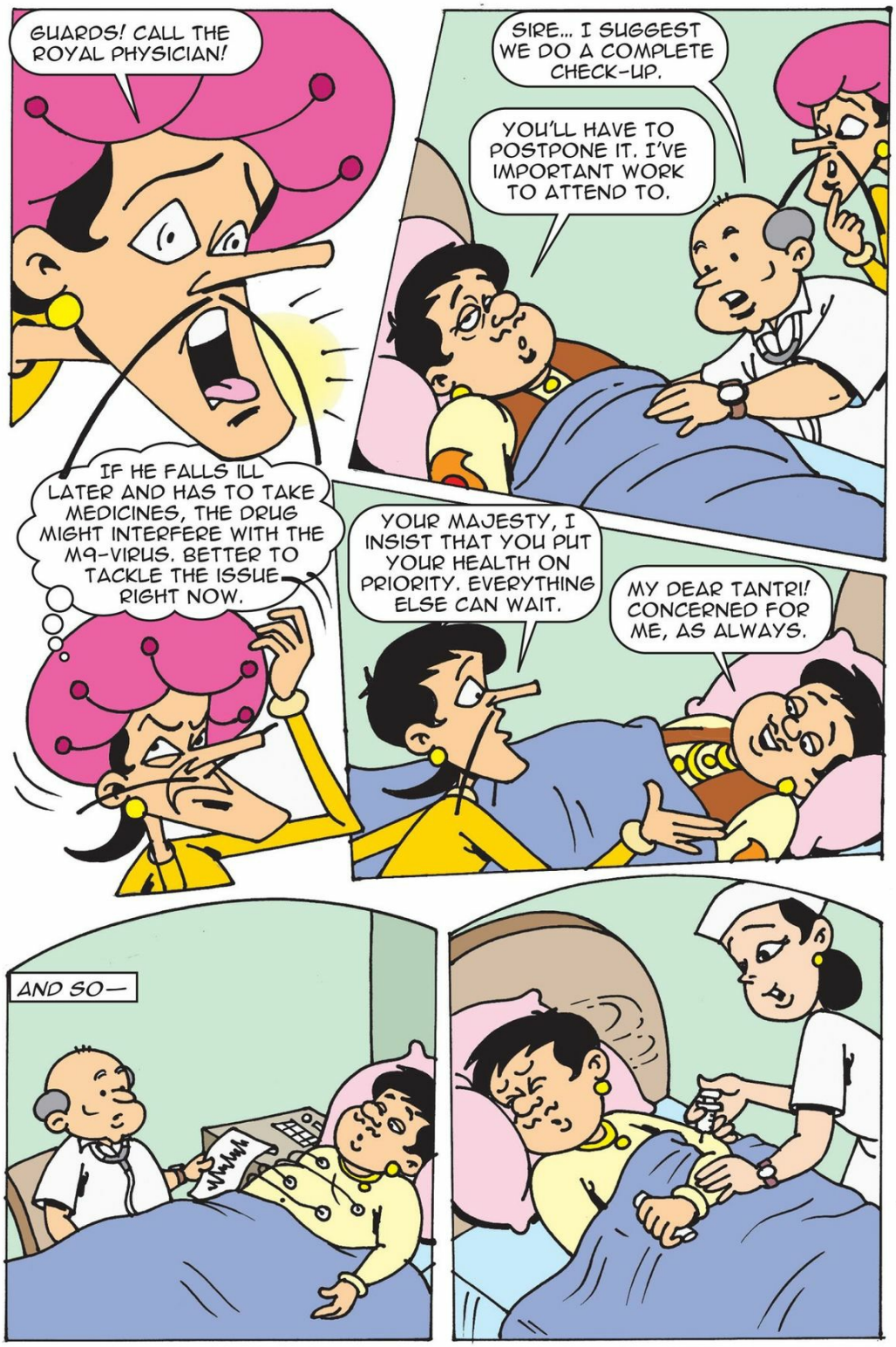


SOON, TANTRI MADE A VISIT TO THE CAMERIAN DASTARDLY STORE.
DO YOU HAVE SOMETHING THAT'LL HELP ME GET RID OF MY ENEMIES?
OF COURSE! WE'RE SPECIALISTS IN 'RIDDING' FACILITIES.
HERE... THIS IS OUR LATEST PRODUCT.
OH! WHAT IS IT? POISONOUS CHEMICAL? RARE VENOM?
NOPE! IT IS VIRUS CONTAMINATED WATER.
EXCUSE ME, MAYBE YOU DIDN'T UNDERSTAND ME CLEARLY... I WANT TO GIVE THE PERSON SOMETHING MORE SERIOUS THAN A VIRAL FLU.
HAHA! TANTRIJI, THIS IS NOT SOME ORDINARY VIRUS. THIS IS THE DEADLY M9-VIRUS.
M9?! WHAT ON EARTH IS THAT?

THE M9-VIRUS WAS DISCOVERED BY OUR RESEARCH SCIENTISTS. WHEN INJECTED INTO THE PERSON'S BODY, THE VIRUS REACHES THE BRAIN AND ATTACKS THE CELLS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE PERSON'S MEMORY AND INTELLIGENCE... THEREBY TURNING HIM INTO A **LUNATIC**.
THERE'S NOTHING THAT CAN FIGHT THE M9 INFECTION... AT LEAST FOR NOW.
AH! **NOW** YOU'RE TALKING!
ONCE HOOJA GOES BONKERS, I'LL SAVE THE KINGDOM BY TAKING OVER AS KING. RAJA HOOJA WILL SPEND THE REST OF HIS DAYS IN AN ASYLUM. MUHHAHAHA!
I'LL TAKE TWO VIALS OF THESE VIRUSES.
THAT'LL BE 20,000 CAMERIAN COUNDS.
20,000 MULTI-PLIED BY...
TWO MILLION HUJLI HUNNA! YOU'RE BARKING MAD!


C'MON, TANTRIJI... YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE THE ENTIRE ROYAL TREASURY FOR YOURSELF WHEN YOU BECOME THE KING. TWO MILLION SHOULD BE PEANUTS FOR YOU.
HEY, WHAT ARE YOU IMPLYING?
I KNOW EVERYTHING ABOUT YOU... WE DO DETAILED RESEARCH ON OUR CUSTOMERS SO THAT WE ARE ABLE TO CATER BETTER TO THEIR NEEDS.
SNEAKY RAT!
SOON...
I HOPE THIS WORKS, OR I'M DOOMED TO DEATH!
THIS BOOKLET HAS ALL THE INFORMATION ABOUT THE PROPERTIES OF THE M9-VIRUS. READ IT THOROUGHLY BEFORE YOU USE IT.
THANK YOU... AND GOOD RIDDANCE.

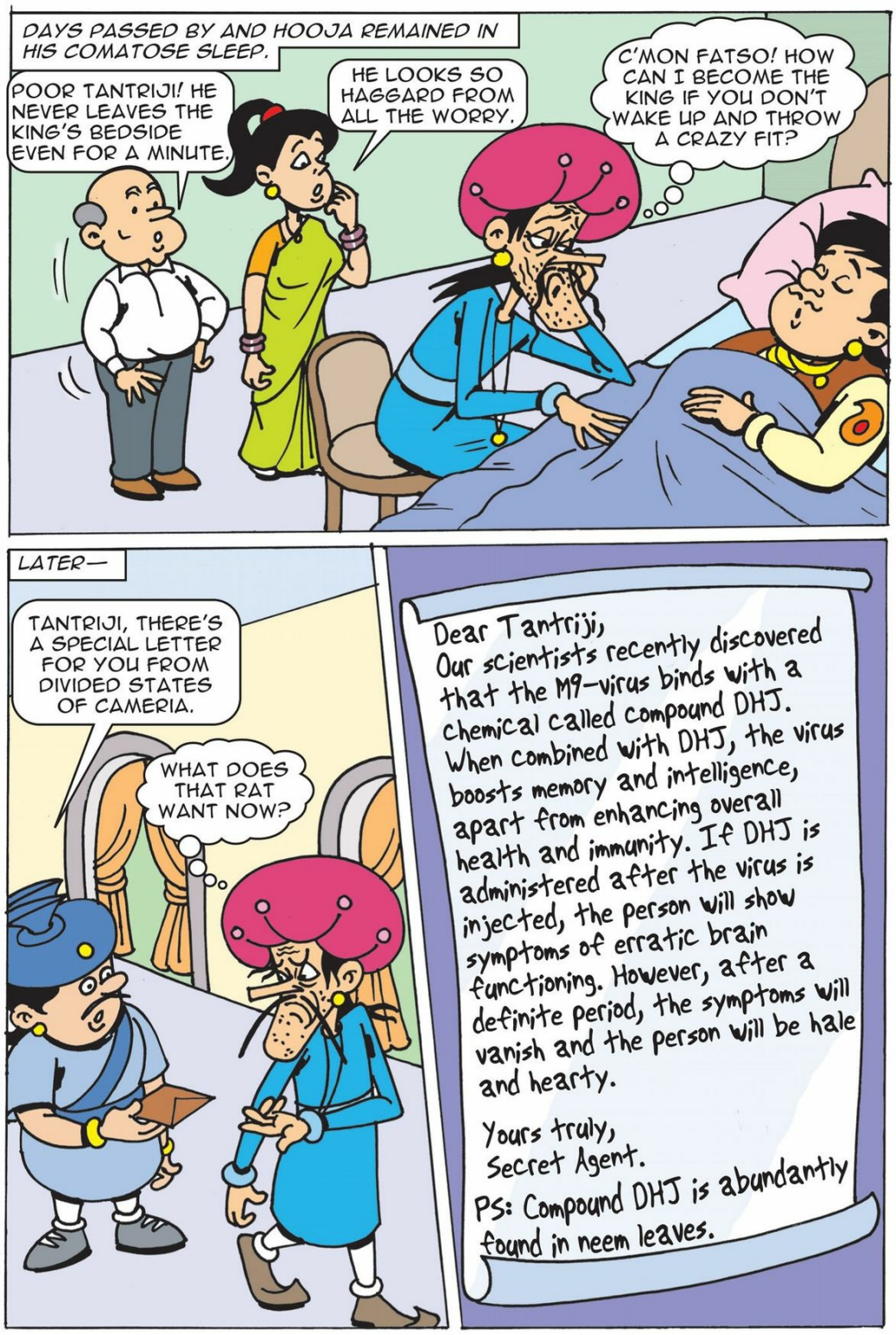
LATER—
I CAN'T AFFORD TO HAVE ANY LOOPHOLES IN MY PLAN.
JUST TO BE EXTRA CAUTIOUS, TANTRI DECIDED TO USE BOTH THE VIALS.
HOOJA WILL BE SO DERANGED THAT THERE WON'T BE ANY CHANCE OF HIM GETTING NORMAL.
A FEW DAYS LATER—
IT'S TIME TO PUT MY PLAN INTO ACTION.
COUGH! COUGH!
YOUR MAJESTY, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
TANTRI, I'M FEELING... GIDDY!
DON'T YOU DARE DIE ON MY TWO MILLION, HOOJA!


GUARDS! CALL THE ROYAL PHYSICIAN!
SIRE... I SUGGEST WE DO A COMPLETE CHECK-UP.
YOU'LL HAVE TO POSTPONE IT. I'VE IMPORTANT WORK TO ATTEND TO.
IF HE FALLS ILL LATER AND HAS TO TAKE MEDICINES, THE DRUG MIGHT INTERFERE WITH THE M9-VIRUS. BETTER TO TACKLE THE ISSUE RIGHT NOW.
YOUR MAJESTY, I INSIST THAT YOU PUT YOUR HEALTH ON PRIORITY. EVERYTHING ELSE CAN WAIT.
MY DEAR TANTRI! CONCERNED FOR ME, AS ALWAYS.
AND SO—

THE REPORTS OF THE TESTS CAME IN SHORTLY.
EVERYTHING SEEMS NORMAL, EXCEPT FOR YOUR BLOOD, WHICH IS SHOWING AN UNUSUAL COMBINATION OF SUGAR AND FATS.
BLOOD SATURATED WITH THE GHEE-RICH LADDOOS.
OH NO! AM I GOING TO BE SICK?
NOTHING ALARMING, BUT WE NEED TO TREAT IT SOON AS IT CAN MAKE YOU VERY SLUGGISH AND DULL.
TAKE THIS TONIC. IT'S A DRUG DERIVED FROM NEEM LEAVES. A SPOONFUL OF THE SYRUP FOR A MONTH SHOULD SOLVE THE PROBLEM.
THE BOOKLET DIDN'T MENTION ANY REACTION WITH NEEM.
THAT SOUNDS GOOD. I'M SO RELIEVED.
THOUGH I DON'T LIKE THE SOUND OF NEEM SYRUP...≥BLECH!≤

SOMETIME LATER—
GO, MY VIRUS BEAUTIES. DO YOUR MAGIC!
THINGS SOON RETURNED TO THE USUAL ROUTINE.
HERE'S YOUR NEEM SYRUP...
WITHIN WEEKS, YOU'RE GOING TO BE A CRACKPOT. YOUR LOYAL SUBJECTS WILL SEE ME AS THE MANTRI WHO TOOK PAINS TO KEEP YOU HEALTHY... AND THEY'LL BE MORE THAN HAPPY TO SERVE ME.
THANK YOU, TANTRI.
FOR THE FOLLOWING WEEKS, TANTRI OBSERVED HOOJA CLOSELY.

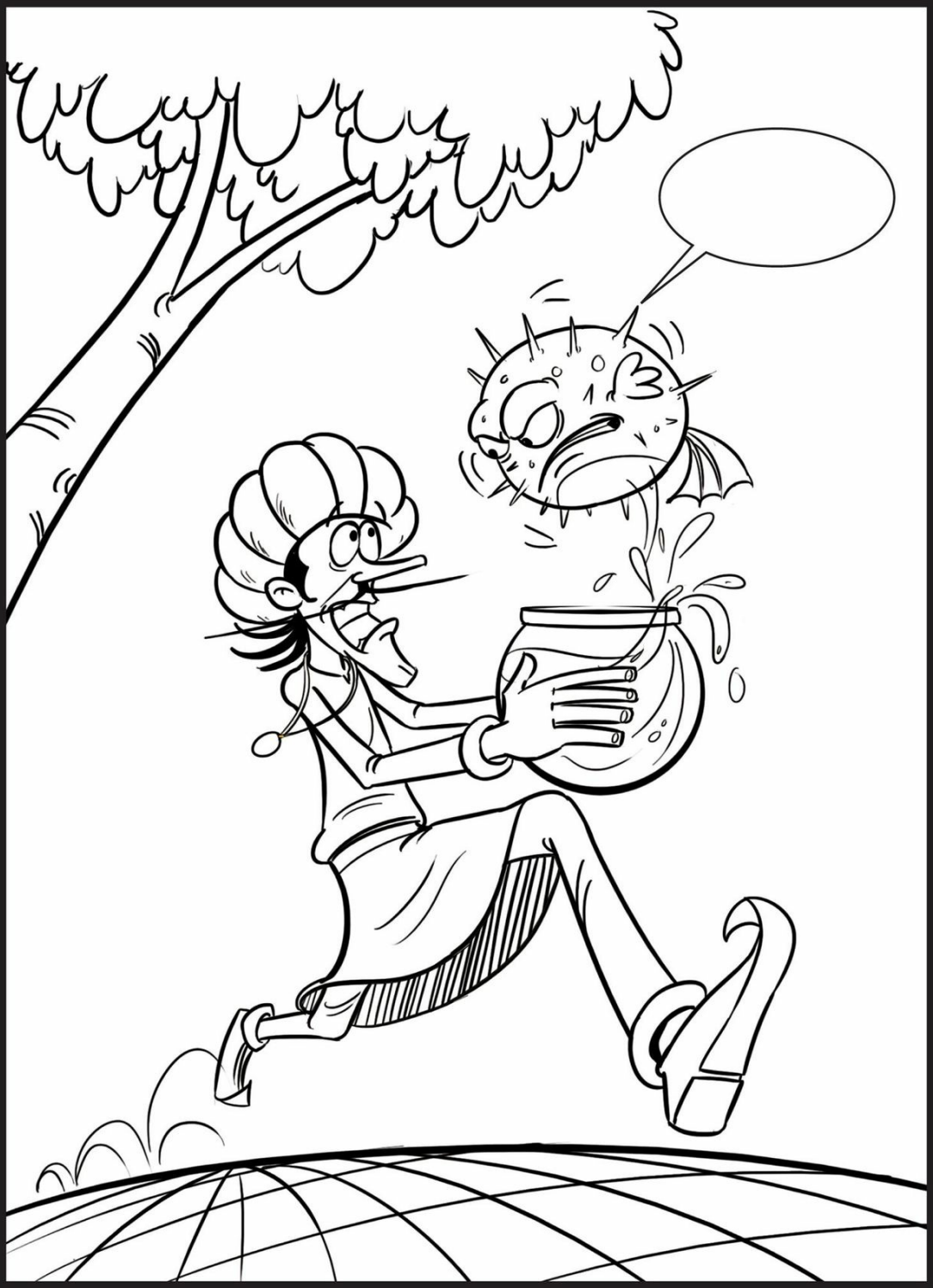
BRILLIANT! HE DOESN'T EVEN REMEMBER BASIC ARITHMETIC.
YOUR MAJESTY, IT'S TIME FOR...
YOUR MAJESTY?!
I DON'T UNDERSTAND... PULSE, BLOOD PRESSURE... EVERYTHING'S FINE. IT'S LIKE HE'S LOST CONTROL OVER HIS CONSCIOUSNESS.
THAT'S BECAUSE HIS BRAIN HAS BEEN CLOBBERED BY MY M9S.
ONCE I ASCEND THE THRONE, THE FIRST THING I'M GOING TO DO IS REFILL MY VAULT. THE EMPTY LOOK IS JUST NOT SUITING IT.


DAYS PASSED BY AND HOOJA REMAINED IN HIS COMATOSE SLEEP.
POOR TANTRIJI! HE NEVER LEAVES THE KING'S BEDSIDE EVEN FOR A MINUTE.
HE LOOKS SO HAGGARD FROM ALL THE WORRY.
C'MON FATSO! HOW CAN I BECOME THE KING IF YOU DON'T WAKE UP AND THROW A CRAZY FIT?
LATER—
TANTRIJI, THERE'S A SPECIAL LETTER FOR YOU FROM DIVIDED STATES OF CAMERIA.
WHAT DOES THAT RAT WANT NOW?
Dear Tantriji,
Our scientists recently discovered that the M9-virus binds with a chemical called compound DHJ. When combined with DHJ, the virus boosts memory and intelligence, apart from enhancing overall health and immunity. If DHJ is administered after the virus is injected, the person will show symptoms of erratic brain functioning. However, after a definite period, the symptoms will vanish and the person will be hale and hearty.
Yours truly,
Secret Agent.
PS: Compound DHJ is abundantly found in neem leaves.

NEEM?! OH NO!
WHAT'S GOING ON?
YOU WON'T BELIEVE IT, BUT HIS MAJESTY IS AS FIT AS A FIDDLE.
ALL THANKS TO MY DEAREST TANTRI WHO MADE SURE I DIDN'T MISS EVEN A SINGLE DOSE.
TWO MILLION BUCKS FOR THIS FATSO'S LONG AND HEALTHY LIFE... IT WOULD'VE BEEN BETTER IF I'D JUST FLUSHED IT DOWN THE DRAIN!
EVEN MY BLOOD REPORTS ARE NORMAL, TANTRI. HOW WONDERFUL IS THAT!
MAYBE YOU WERE JUST OVER-STRESSED. THE DEEP SLEEP GAVE YOUR BODY THE TIME TO REPAIR ITS WEAR AND TEAR, AND THE NEEM TONIC HELPED TOO.

COLOUR ME BRIGHT!

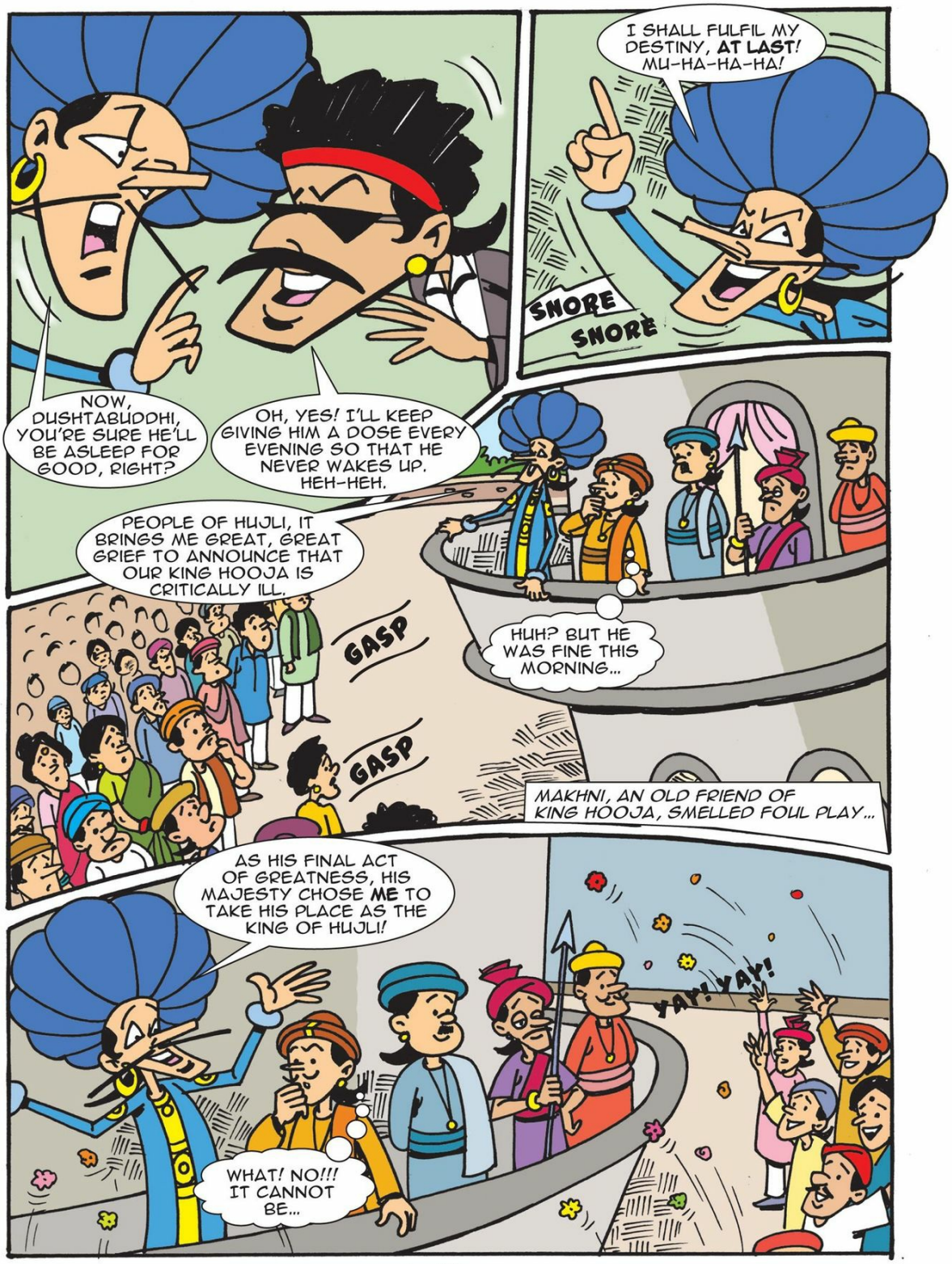
Colour the image and then give the blowfish something cool to say!



Tantri the Mantri SWEET REVENGE

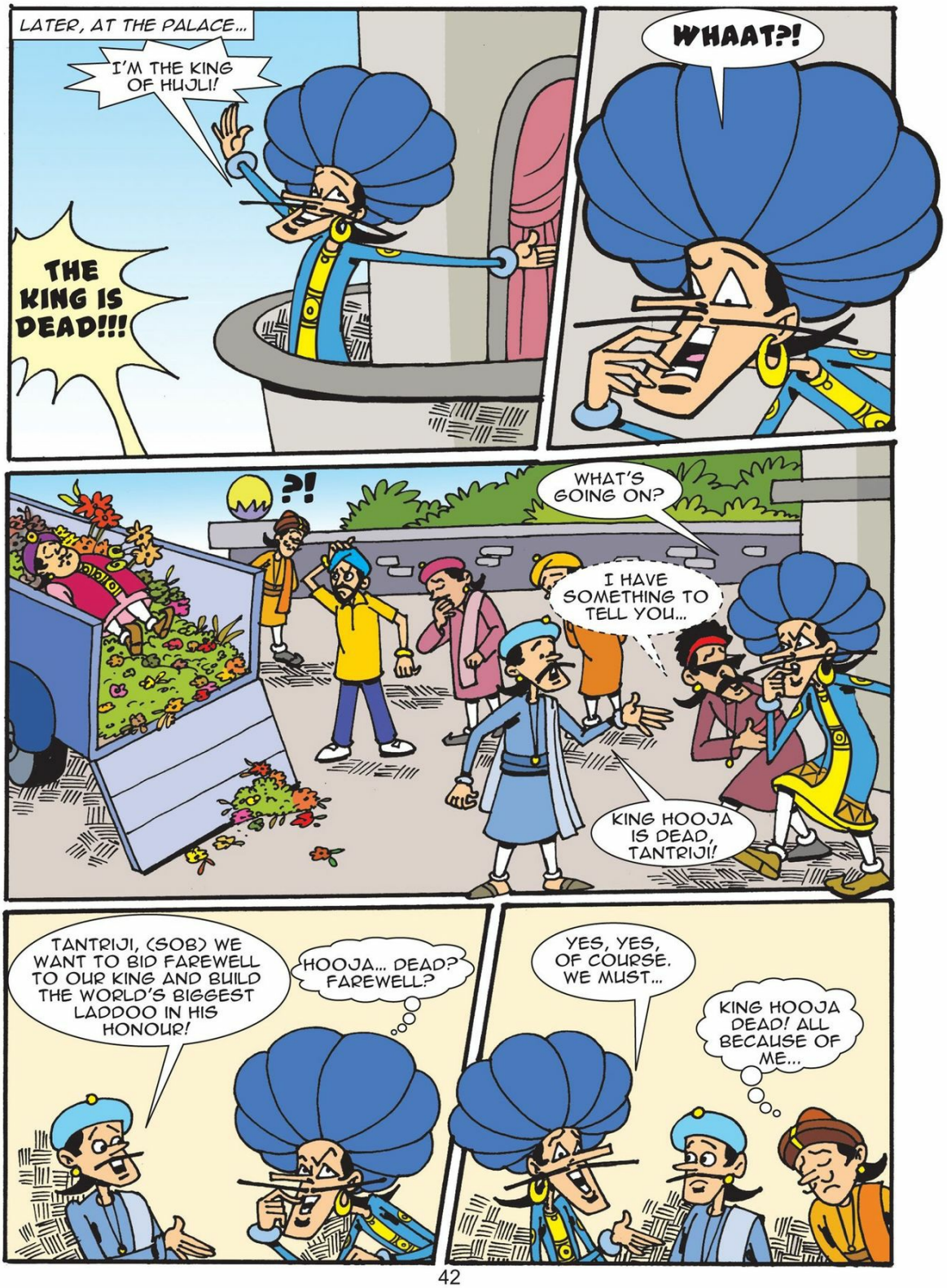
Story & Script Shruti Dave
Pencils & Inks Prachi Killekar
Colours Umesh Sarode
Letters Pranay Bendre

SAY IT ISN'T TRUE, DOCTOR! SAY MY KING IS FIT AS A FIDDLE... BOO HOO!
BUT WHAT IS THIS PINE FLU, TANTRI?
NO TIME FOR THAT, YOUR HIGHNESS. YOU MUST BE TREATED RIGHT AWAY!
CLICK!
POP!
YES, YES. THIS WAY.
YOUR HIGHNESS, DO NOT WORRY. DR. D. BUDDHI IS AN EXPERT. YOU ARE IN SAFE HANDS.
YES, JUST INHALE THIS AND YOU SHALL BE CURED...
UNHH...
IT WORKED!
SNORE
SNORE


NOW, DUSHTABUDDHI, YOU'RE SURE HE'LL BE ASLEEP FOR GOOD, RIGHT?
OH, YES! I'LL KEEP GIVING HIM A DOSE EVERY EVENING SO THAT HE NEVER WAKES UP. HEH-HEH.
I SHALL FULFIL MY DESTINY, **AT LAST**! MU-HA-HA-HA!
SNORE
SNORE
PEOPLE OF HUJLI, IT BRINGS ME GREAT, GREAT GRIEF TO ANNOUNCE THAT OUR KING HOOJA IS CRITICALLY ILL.
GASP
GASP
HUH? BUT HE WAS FINE THIS MORNING...
MAKHNI, AN OLD FRIEND OF KING HOOJA, SMELLED FOUL PLAY...
AS HIS FINAL ACT OF GREATNESS, HIS MAJESTY CHOSE **ME** TO TAKE HIS PLACE AS THE KING OF HUJLI!
YAY! YAY!
WHAT! NO!!! IT CANNOT BE...

TANTRIJI, YOUR CORONATION WILL BE HELD THIS EVENING.
VERY WELL.
I MUST FIND HOOJA BEFORE TANTRI IS CROWNED KING. HE'S NOT IN HIS ROOM... COULD TANTRI BE BEHIND HIS DISAPPEARANCE?
HE'S NOT WITH VICHITRABUDDHI EITHER...
TANTRI'S THE KING AND HOOJA'S IN THE BIN! YAY! LET'S BOOGIE!
THERE COULD BE ONLY ONE OTHER PLACE...
I KNEW IT! TANTRI AND DUSHTABUDDHI MUST HAVE DRUGGED HOOJA...
SNORE
THUP
THUP
OH NO! THAT MUST BE DUSHTABUDDHI. I MUST GET HOOJA OUT NOW!

USHTA'S SPITAL
THUP THUP
THUP THUP
HE SOUNDS CLOSE!
WHERE'S HOOJA?!
SNORE
OH NO...! THE CHAIR.
SNOR
SMACK
SNORE
ZZIP
WHAM!
MH-01
NOW MAKE SURE YOU TAKE THESE FLOWERS STRAIGHT TO KING HOOJA'S PALACE. THEY ARE FOR THE NEW KING'S CORONATION.
SNORE
YES, SIR.


LATER, AT THE PALACE...
I'M THE KING OF HUJLI!
THE KING IS DEAD!!!
WHAAT?!
?!
WHAT'S GOING ON?
I HAVE SOMETHING TO TELL YOU...
KING HOOJA IS DEAD, TANTRIJI!
TANTRIJI, (SOB) WE WANT TO BID FAREWELL TO OUR KING AND BUILD THE WORLD'S BIGGEST LADDOO IN HIS HONOUR!
HOOJA... DEAD? FAREWELL?
YES, YES, OF COURSE. WE MUST...
KING HOOJA DEAD! ALL BECAUSE OF ME...

THIS IS GREAT! HOW DID YOU DO IT, DUSHTABUDDHI??
ER... YOU, TANTRIJI. YOU INSPIRE ME!
AFTER THE PREPARATIONS WERE DONE—
TANTRIJI, THE LADDOO IS READY. SHALL WE START OUR FAREWELL CEREMONY?
YES, IT IS TIME.
WHOOPIE!!
SNIFF
SNIFF
WE HAVE ALL GATHERED TODAY TO HONOUR...
...A KING, NO, A GREAT KING...
SNIFF SNIFF
...WHOSE LOVE FOR HIS PEOPLE WAS THE GREATEST.
LOVE... GHEE... LADDOOOO... MMM...

IN FACT, I KNOW THAT IF HE COULD, HE WOULD RETURN FROM THE VERY DOORS OF HEAVEN...
...AND COME BACK FOR...
LADDOO!
(GASP)
HE'S BACK!
WHA...? WHO'S BACK?
HE'S BACK?
YAY!! HE'S BACK!
OH NO... OH NO...

OW!
HE'S BACK! YAYY!!
AT LEAST TELL ME WHO IS BACK!
YAY!
KING HOOJA IS BACK, TANTRI! YOU WERE RIGHT. OUR LOVE GOT HIM BACK FROM HEAVEN'S DOOR! HOW DO YOU FEEL?
OH... BOWLED OVER!

What's Your Tantri Quotient?

1. Who do you like to hang out with?

a. The people I love—friends and family
b. Famous and fabulous people
c. I like being with myself mostly

2. What is most important to you?

a. Love
b. Power
c. Peace

3. How do you achieve your goals?

a. By planning carefully
b. By hook or crook
c. By just going with the flow

4. How do you feel about yourself?

a. I'm pretty cool, but I could improve
b. I'm the best
c. I am just beginning to learn about myself

5. How do you handle failure?

a. Learn from my mistakes
b. They are unacceptable!
c. Accept it and move on

Your Results:

Mostly As: Your Tantri quotient is average. You have the potential to be bigger and better, but you lack Tantri's insane drive and focus. With a little more confidence, you could become a great King.

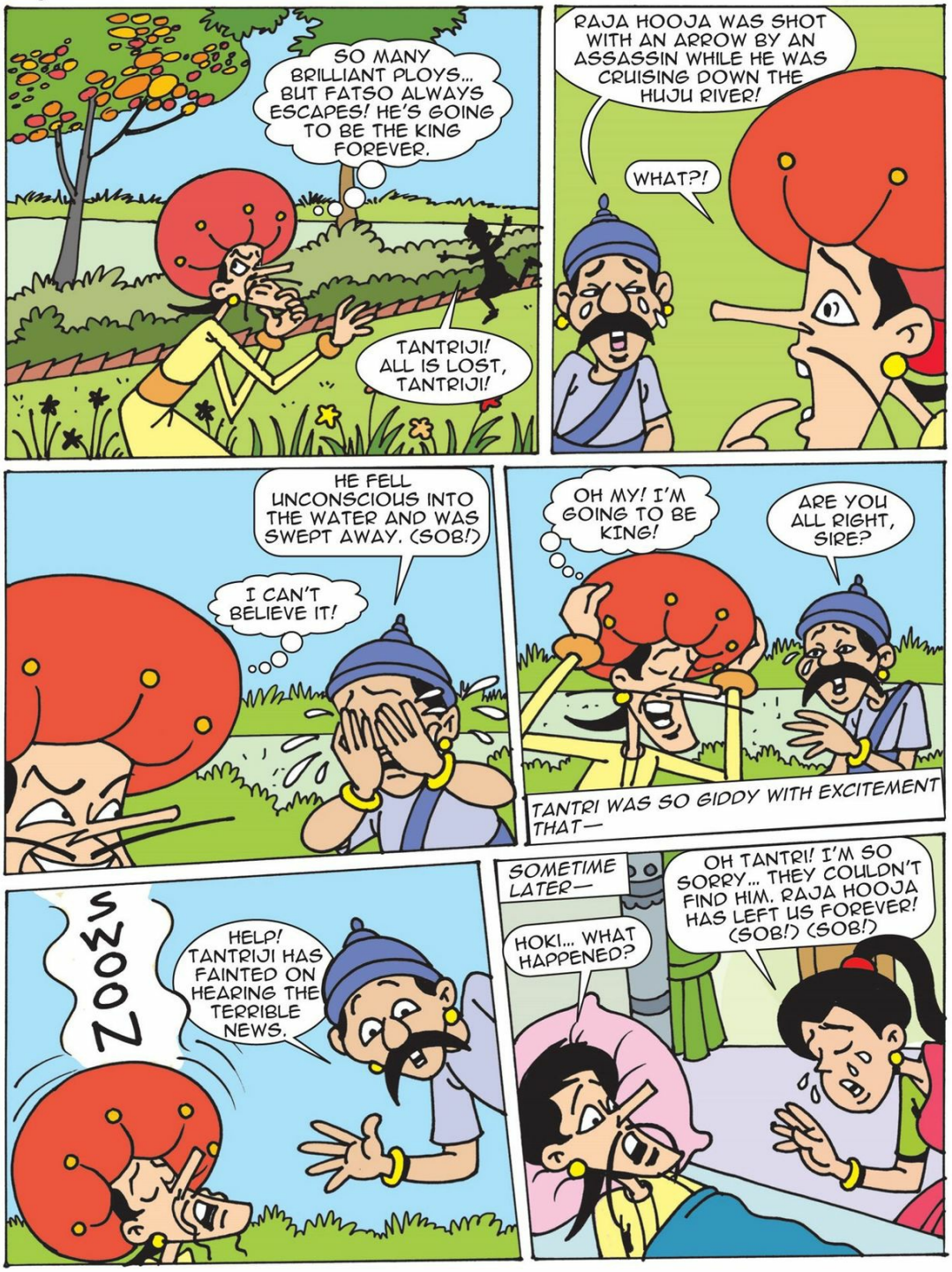
Mostly Bs: Put on the turban; we've found another Tantri! You are our skinny minister's soul mate. You will go after what you want, and you may even get the royal crown. Unless... you have Tantri's bad luck!

Mostly Cs: Er... why are you even taking this quiz? You do not have a single Tantri bone in your body. You are peace-loving and chilled out. You are happy being yourself and that's your crown of glory!

Text: Shruti Dave *Layout: Jitendra Patil*

Tantri the Mantri THE WOEFUL VICTIM

Story & Script Anisha H. Karthick
Pencils & Inks Prachi Killekar
Colours Umesh Sarode
Letters Pranay Bendre



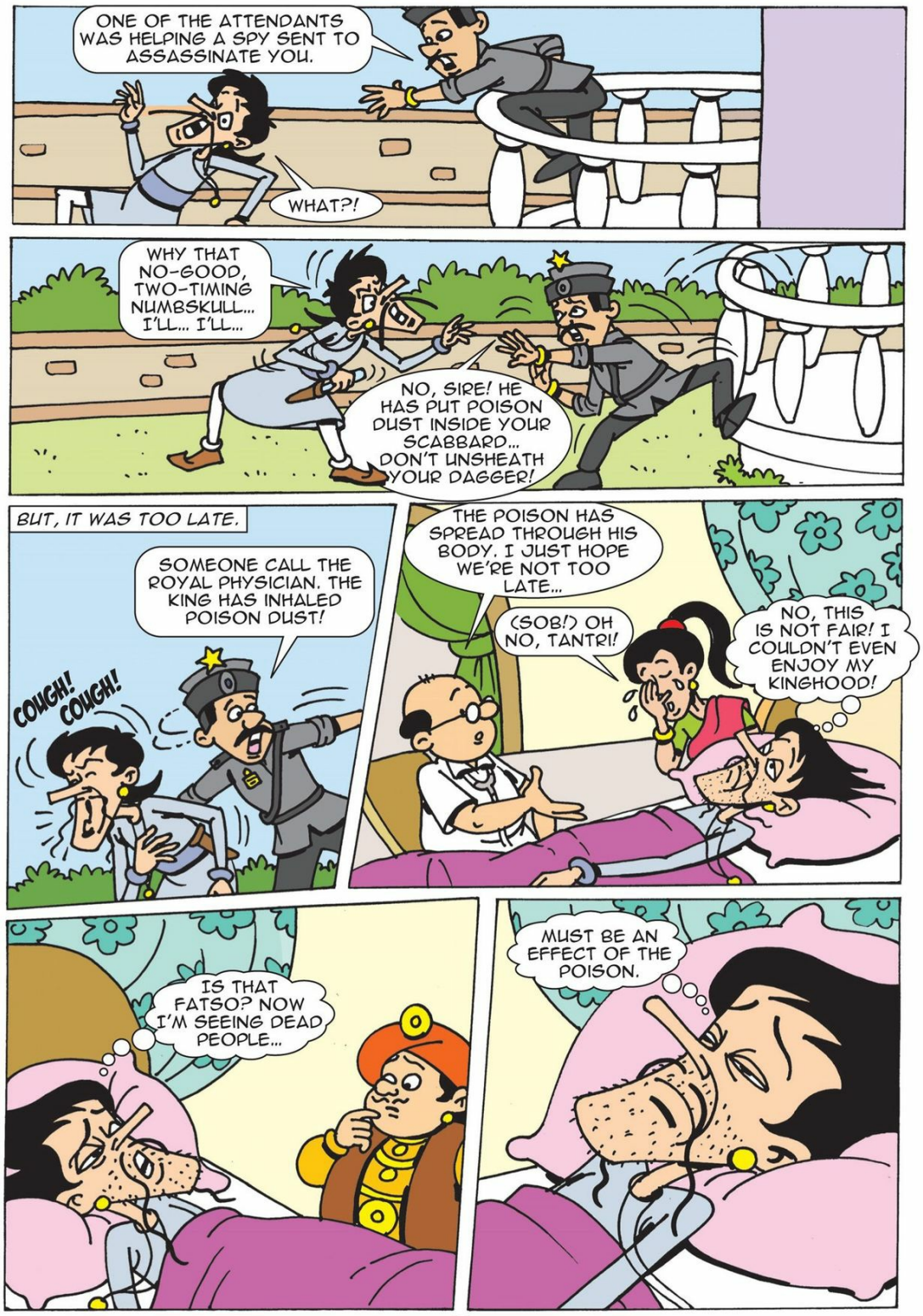
NEWS ABOUT HOOJA'S DEMISE SPREAD THROUGHOUT THE KINGDOM. TANTRI ARRANGED FOR A CONDOLENCE MEETING TO CONSOLE THE GRIEF-STRICKEN PEOPLE.
LET US ALL HAVE A LADDOO IN THE LOVING MEMORY OF RAJA HOOJA.
TO RAJA HOOJA!
I THINK TANTRIJI SHOULD TAKE OVER AS THE NEW KING.
YES, I TOO VOTE FOR HIM.
AND SO—
THANK YOU, MY UNKNOWN ALLY, FOR SENDING THAT ASSASSIN AND MAKING MY DREAM COME TRUE!
TANTRI SPENT THE NEXT FEW WEEKS ENJOYING HIS NEW-FOUND ROYAL PRIVILEGES.
100 HUJLI HUNNA

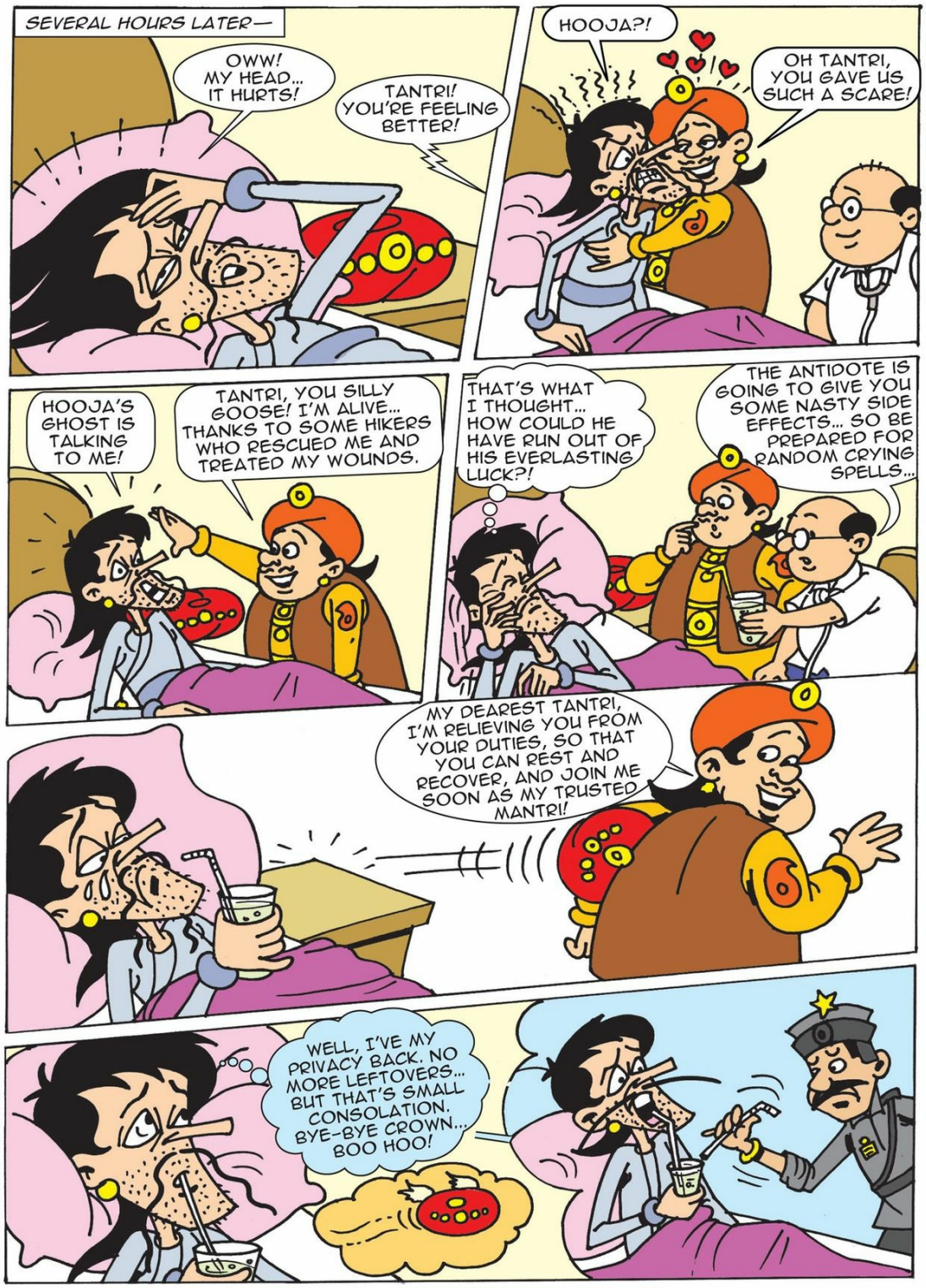
THEN, ONE DAY—
I WONDER WHAT DUSHTABUDDHI AND VICHITRABUDDHI ARE UP TO THESE DAYS...
SUDDENLY—
ZOOOPP!
YIKES! WHAT WAS THAT?!
SURROUND HIM, MEN!
WHAT ON EARTH IS HAPPENING HERE?!
TANTRIJI, WE'RE THE BLACK PANTHERS FROM THE SPECIAL ROYAL SECURITY FORCE. THE ROYAL INTELLIGENCE UNIT HAS FOUND THAT OUR ENEMIES HAVE TARGETED YOU NEXT.
OH NO! I DON'T WANT TO BE SOME ASSASSIN'S VICTIM!
REST ASSURED, SIRE. MY PANTHERS WILL **ALWAYS** BE THERE TO PROTECT YOU.
WE'VE ALREADY LOST RAJA HOOJA, BUT WE WON'T LET THEM HARM OUR BELOVED KING TANTRI.

I JUST HOPE FATSO'S LUCK OF SURVIVING DISASTERS HAS RUBBED OFF ON ME.
THE BLACK PANTHERS TOOK THEIR JOB SERIOUSLY.
AAAHH!
@!#%$**
GAK!
ROYAL FOOD EXAMINER
THIS IS RIDICULOUS! I'VE TO EAT LEFTOVERS... I'VE NO PRIVACY... AND ALL THE WHILE, I'VE TO LIVE LIKE A PITIFUL VICTIM!
JUST THEN—
MY EXPRESS EAGLE POST! I HOPE IT IS GOOD NEWS.
KRRRLLL!

WAIT A MINUTE... I RECOGNIZE THAT 'D'...
HEY!
WE NEED TO CHECK IF THE INK USED TO WRITE THIS HAS BEEN LACED WITH POISON.
THIS IS AN EXTREMELY PRIVATE LETTER AND I WON'T ALLOW YOU TO SNEAK A LOOK INTO IT!
BUT, SIRE...
NO BUTS! I'M THE KING AND I COMMAND YOU TO LEAVE ME ALONE!
LET ME STEP OUT FOR A MOMENT... HE'S REALLY ANNOYED.
IF THEY FIND OUT ABOUT MY ASSOCIATION WITH DUSHTABUDDHI, MY ROYAL DAYS WILL TURN INTO ROTTING DAYS. NOW LET'S SEE WHAT HIS LETTER SAYS.
Meet me for coffee and snacks. I have some things that might interest you very much.
— Dushtabuddhi
THAT'S PERFECT... JUST WHAT I NEED TO TAKE MY MIND OFF ALL THIS FRUSTRATION.

BUT, I'LL HAVE TO OUTWIT THE PANTHERS AND SNEAK OUT... HMM...
I'M FEELING UNWELL AND WANT TO REST FOR A FEW HOURS. WHATEVER THE MATTER, I SHOULD NOT BE DISTURBED.
YES, YOUR MAJESTY.
HEHEHE... THAT SHOULD DO IT.
AND I'LL QUIETLY LEAVE FROM THE BALCONY. BY THE TIME THE PANTHERS CHECK ON ME, I'LL BE BACK FROM MY OUTING.
SUDDENLY—
YOUR MAJESTY, WHERE ARE YOU?
OH DARN! NOT A MOMENT DO THEY LEAVE ME ALONE!
HOW DARE YOU ENTER MY CHAMBER?! HAD I NOT LEFT INSTRUCTION THAT I SHOULD NOT BE DISTURBED?!
TANTRIJI, PLEASE LISTEN TO ME... WE'VE FOUND A TRAITOR.


ONE OF THE ATTENDANTS WAS HELPING A SPY SENT TO ASSASSINATE YOU.
WHAT?!
WHY THAT NO-GOOD, TWO-TIMING NUMBSKULL... I'LL... I'LL...
NO, SIRE! HE HAS PUT POISON DUST INSIDE YOUR SCABBARD... DON'T UNSHEATH YOUR DAGGER!
BUT, IT WAS TOO LATE.
SOMEONE CALL THE ROYAL PHYSICIAN. THE KING HAS INHALED POISON DUST!
COUGH! COUGH!
THE POISON HAS SPREAD THROUGH HIS BODY. I JUST HOPE WE'RE NOT TOO LATE...
(SOB!) OH NO, TANTRI!
NO, THIS IS NOT FAIR! I COULDN'T EVEN ENJOY MY KINGHOOD!
IS THAT FATSO? NOW I'M SEEING DEAD PEOPLE...
MUST BE AN EFFECT OF THE POISON.


SEVERAL HOURS LATER—
OWW! MY HEAD... IT HURTS!
TANTRI! YOU'RE FEELING BETTER!
HOOJA?!
OH TANTRI, YOU GAVE US SUCH A SCARE!
HOOJA'S GHOST IS TALKING TO ME!
TANTRI, YOU SILLY GOOSE! I'M ALIVE... THANKS TO SOME HIKERS WHO RESCUED ME AND TREATED MY WOUNDS.
THAT'S WHAT I THOUGHT... HOW COULD HE HAVE RUN OUT OF HIS EVERLASTING LUCK?!
THE ANTIDOTE IS GOING TO GIVE YOU SOME NASTY SIDE EFFECTS... SO BE PREPARED FOR RANDOM CRYING SPELLS...
MY DEAREST TANTRI, I'M RELIEVING YOU FROM YOUR DUTIES, SO THAT YOU CAN REST AND RECOVER, AND JOIN ME SOON AS MY TRUSTED MANTRI!
WELL, I'VE MY PRIVACY BACK. NO MORE LEFTOVERS... BUT THAT'S SMALL CONSOLATION. BYE-BYE CROWN... BOO HOO!

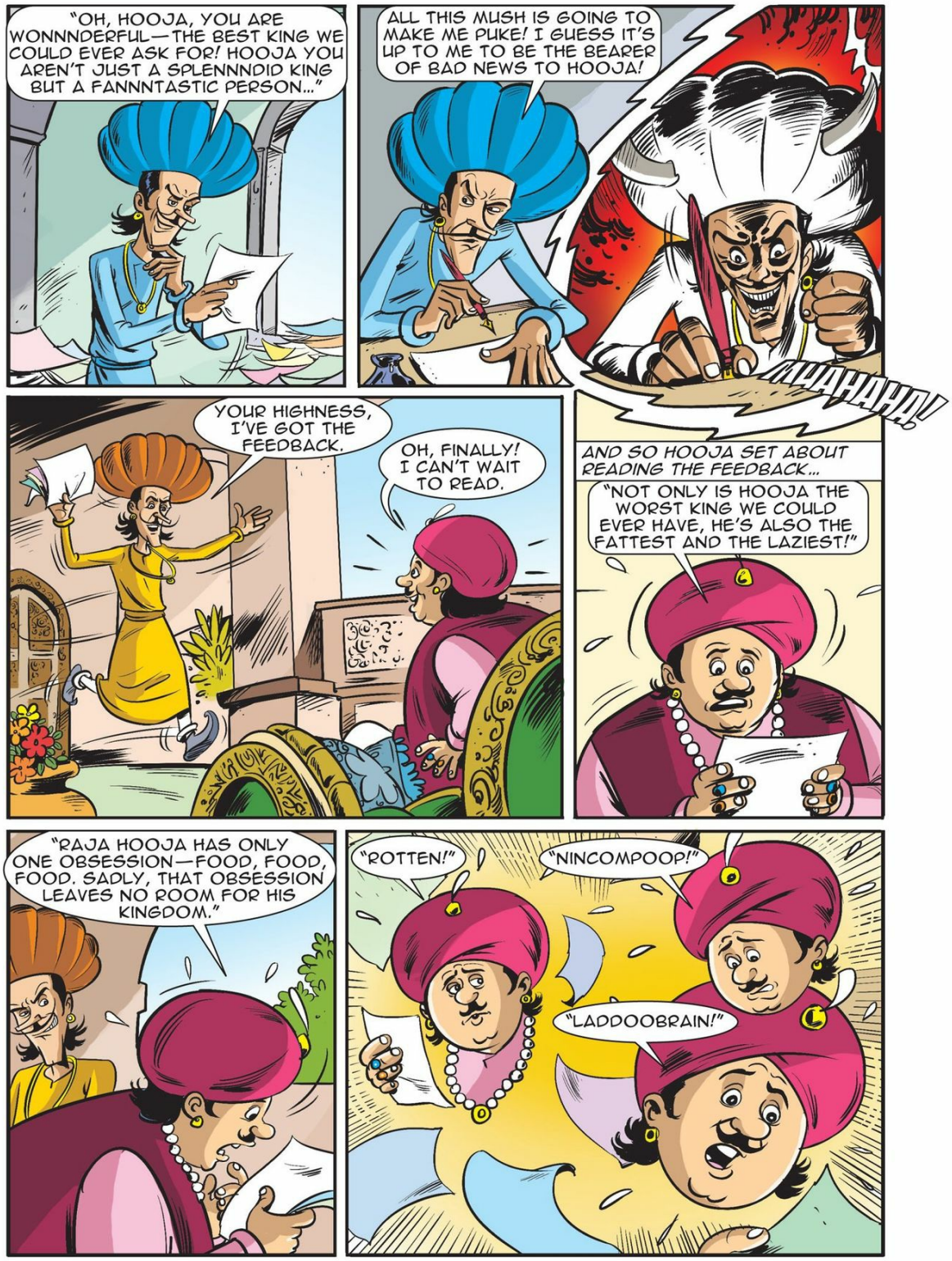
THE DANGER MAZE

Hooja's followed the scent trail of food, leaving Tantri alone in the garden... the same garden where Tantri had planted traps and dangers for Hooja to walk in on. Help Tantri cross the garden safely by first marking all the flower names (that's where all the traps are laid) and then trace him a path **away** from the flowers. There are 6 feomus names in there.

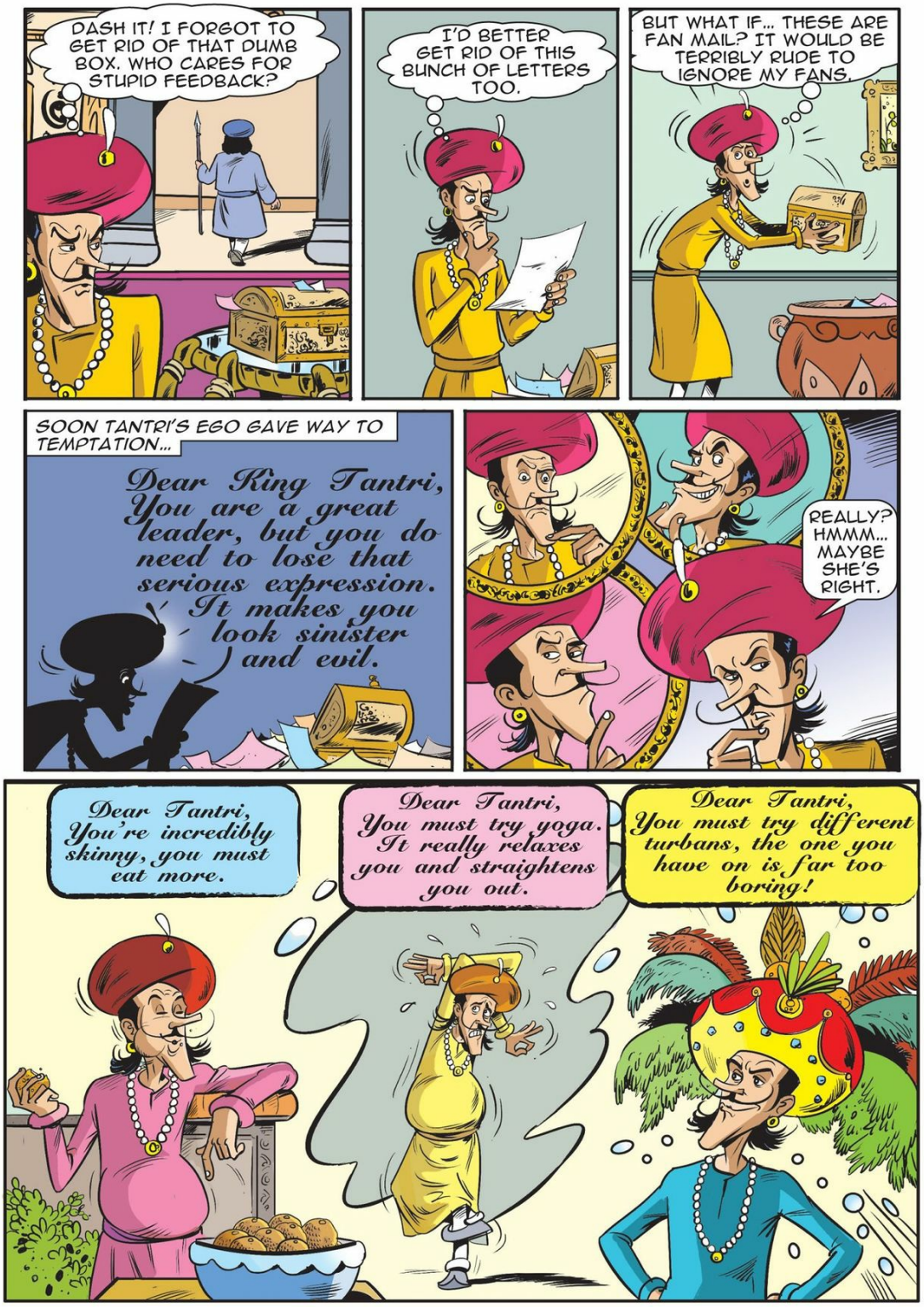
A	O	G	L	M	F	P	S	C	V	Z
K	X	S	U	N	F	L	O	W	E	R
P	U	D	A	F	F	O	D	I	L	O
H	Y	A	C	I	N	T	H	K	B	S
J	Q	F	A	X	P	U	J	K	G	E
O	A	G	R	O	B	S	P	Q	F	X
B	U	T	N	M	Q	T	A	G	T	M
U	K	X	T	U	L	I	P	S	B	J
B	M	P	I	T	I	V	F	P	K	O
Q	A	G	O	F	L	Q	A	X	M	U
H	K	G	N	G	Y	P	J	A	B	Z

Concept: Shruti Dave Layout: Jitendra Patil

Tantri the Mantri
A MATTER OF OPINION
Story & Script
Sean D'mello
Pencils & Inks
Arijit Dutta Chowdhury
Colours
Umesh Sarode
Letters
Pranay Bendre
I'VE BEEN THE RULER OF HUJLI FOR A LONG TIME, TANTRI, YET I'VE NEVER FELT SO DISCONNECTED WITH THE PEOPLE, LIKE I DO TODAY.
WHAT CAN I DO TO HELP, YOUR HIGHNESS?
TAKE OVER AS KING INSTEAD?
I NEED TO BE MORE OF A PEOPLE'S KING, BUT HOW DO I GO ABOUT IT?
HOW ABOUT SETTING UP A FEEDBACK BOX? THAT WAY, EVERYONE CAN SEND YOU THEIR OPINIONS, SIRE.
OH, TANTRI, THAT'S A GREAT IDEA! I WANT YOU TO BE IN CHARGE OF THIS BOX!
OF COURSE, YOUR HIGHNESS!
THIS IS PERFECT. I'LL MAKE SURE ONLY THE REALLY BAD FEEDBACK REACHES HOOJA. I'LL SOON HAVE HIM DOUBTING HIS LEADERSHIP... AND THE CROWN SHALL BE MINE!
A WEEK LATER—
AAAARGGH! NOT ONE FOUL LETTER! HOW IS THIS POSSIBLE?!


"OH, HOOJA, YOU ARE WONNNDERFUL—THE BEST KING WE COULD EVER ASK FOR! HOOJA YOU AREN'T JUST A SPLENNNDID KING BUT A FANNNTASTIC PERSON..."
ALL THIS MUSH IS GOING TO MAKE ME PUKE! I GUESS IT'S UP TO ME TO BE THE BEARER OF BAD NEWS TO HOOJA!
AHAHAHA!
YOUR HIGHNESS, I'VE GOT THE FEEDBACK.
OH, FINALLY! I CAN'T WAIT TO READ.
AND SO HOOJA SET ABOUT READING THE FEEDBACK...
"NOT ONLY IS HOOJA THE WORST KING WE COULD EVER HAVE, HE'S ALSO THE FATTEST AND THE LAZIEST!"
"RAJA HOOJA HAS ONLY ONE OBSESSION—FOOD, FOOD, FOOD. SADLY, THAT OBSESSION LEAVES NO ROOM FOR HIS KINGDOM."
"ROTTEN!"
"NINCOMPOOP!"
"LADDOOBRAIN!"

TANTRI, ARE ALL LETTERS LIKE THIS? SURELY, THERE HAS TO BE **ONE** POSITIVE MAIL!
I WISH, YOUR HIGHNESS... BUT THERE ISN'T A SINGLE ONE...
...BECAUSE I BURNED ALL THE 'REAL' LETTERS!
I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS. MAYBE THE KINGDOM OF HUJLI IS BETTER OFF WITHOUT ME.
DON'T SAY THAT, YOUR HIGHNESS.
SAY IT! SAY IT!
THANK YOU, TANTRI. YOU'VE ALWAYS BEEN LOYAL, BUT I'VE MADE UP MY MIND...
...I'M LEAVING. I WANT YOU TO TAKE CHARGE OF HUJLI IN MY ABSENCE!
OF COURSE, YOUR HIGHNESS. WHATEVER YOU SAY.
DON'T YOU JUST **LOVE** IT WHEN A PLAN COMES TOGETHER?
A WEEK LATER...
I COULD GET USED TO THIS... AND I WILL!
FEEDBACK LETTERS FOR THE WEEK, YOUR HIGHNESS.

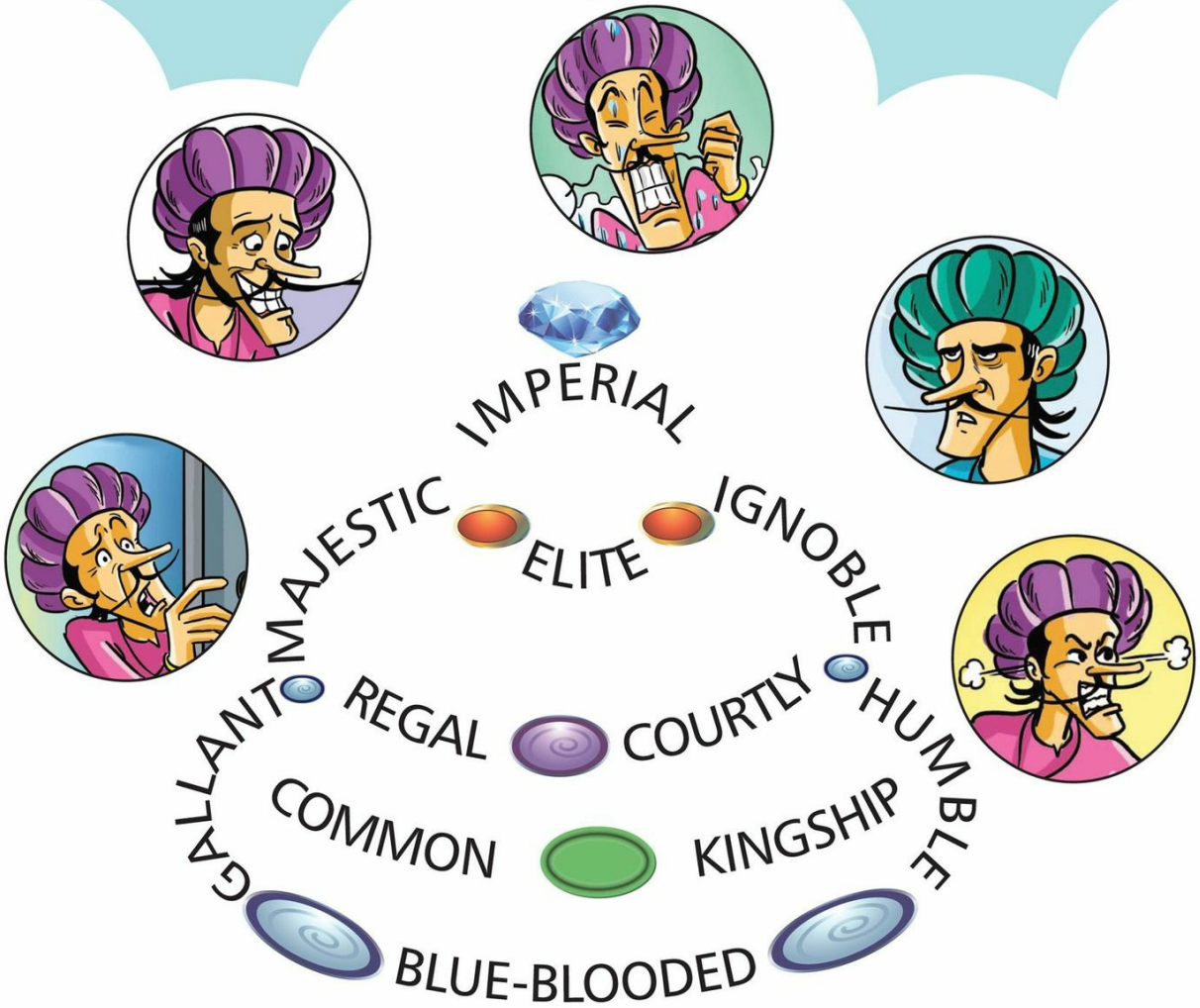

DASH IT! I FORGOT TO GET RID OF THAT DUMB BOX. WHO CARES FOR STUPID FEEDBACK?
I'D BETTER GET RID OF THIS BUNCH OF LETTERS TOO.
BUT WHAT IF... THESE ARE FAN MAIL? IT WOULD BE TERRIBLY RUDE TO IGNORE MY FANS.
SOON TANTRI'S EGO GAVE WAY TO TEMPTATION...
Dear King Tantri, You are a great leader, but you do need to lose that serious expression. It makes you look sinister and evil.
REALLY? HMMM... MAYBE SHE'S RIGHT.
Dear Tantri, You're incredibly skinny, you must eat more.
Dear Tantri, You must try yoga. It really relaxes you and straightens you out.
Dear Tantri, You must try different turbans, the one you have on is far too boring!

Most of all, dear Tantri, you must eat more laddoos. A king should look healthy and prosperous!
MEANWHILE, SOMEWHERE IN THE MOUNTAINS...
REMEMBER, HOOJA, FEEDBACK IS LIKE A LADDOO!
A LADDOO?
YES. ALTHOUGH IT MAY SEEM ROUGH ON THE OUTSIDE, IT'S ONLY WHEN YOU GET TO THE CENTRE THAT YOU TASTE ITS TRUE GOODNESS.
OH MY! AND HERE I THOUGHTLESSLY ATE THEM!
A FEW WEEKS LATER, AT THE KINGDOM...
(YAAAWWNN) I ATE TOO MANY LADDOOS LAST NIGHT.
OH NO! FATSO'S BACK!
WAIT A MINUTE, THAT'S NOT HOOJA... IF IT'S NOT HOOJA THAT MEANS IT'S... ME!

ALL THAT FEEDBACK... THEY'VE TURNED ME INTO HOOJA! HELLLLP!
YOUR HIGHNESS, YOU SHOULD BATHE IN DONKEY'S MILK TO GET KING HOOJA'S GLOWING COMPLEXION.
HAVE YOU TRIED WAXING YOUR MOUSTACHE LIKE KING HOOJA?
DID YOU FOLLOW MY LADDOO ADVICE?
NO... NO... NO...
IT FEELS SO NICE TO BE BACK IN HUJLI. LOOK, EVEN TANTRI HAS COME TO GREET ME!
NO MORE FEEDBACK. NO MORE HOOJA. NO MORE FEED...
FEED? MY DARLING TANTRI, YOU'VE ALWAYS KNOWN WHEN I'M HUNGRY.
SO WHAT ARE YOU FEEDING ME? SANDWICHES? BIRYANI? LADDOOS?
HOOJA? LADDOOS? HOOJA? LADDOOS!
AAAAA! NOOO! NO MORE!
WHAT'S WRONG WITH HIM?
DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA? IF YES, DO SEND ME YOUR FEEDBACK.

WORD WONDER

There are some words in here that don't really spell royalty. Can you spot them?



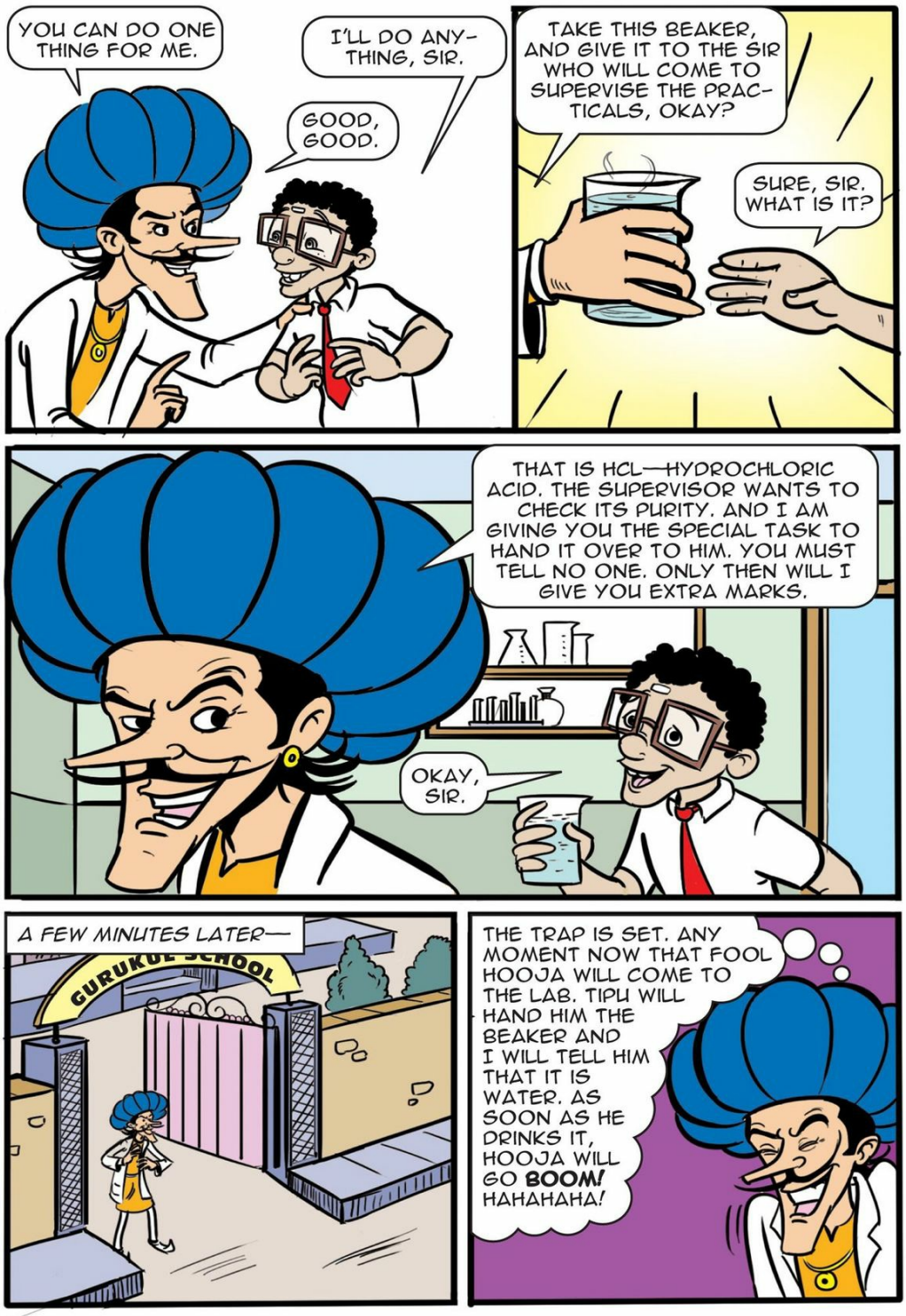
Answer and meanings:
Ignoble: a humble status
Humble: low rank or status (also means modest)
Common: ordinary, without a special rank or status

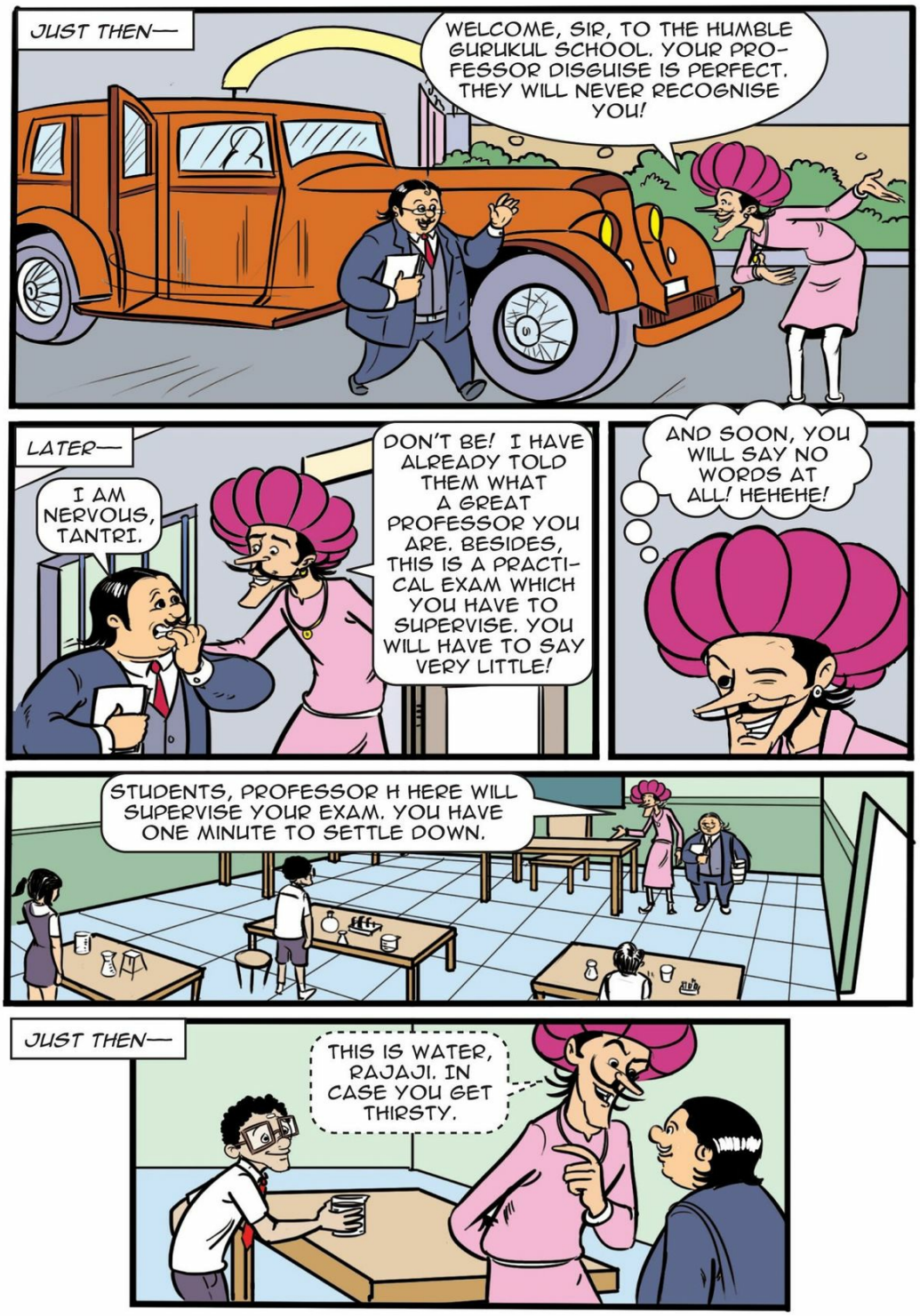
Tantri the Mantri: The Practical Exam

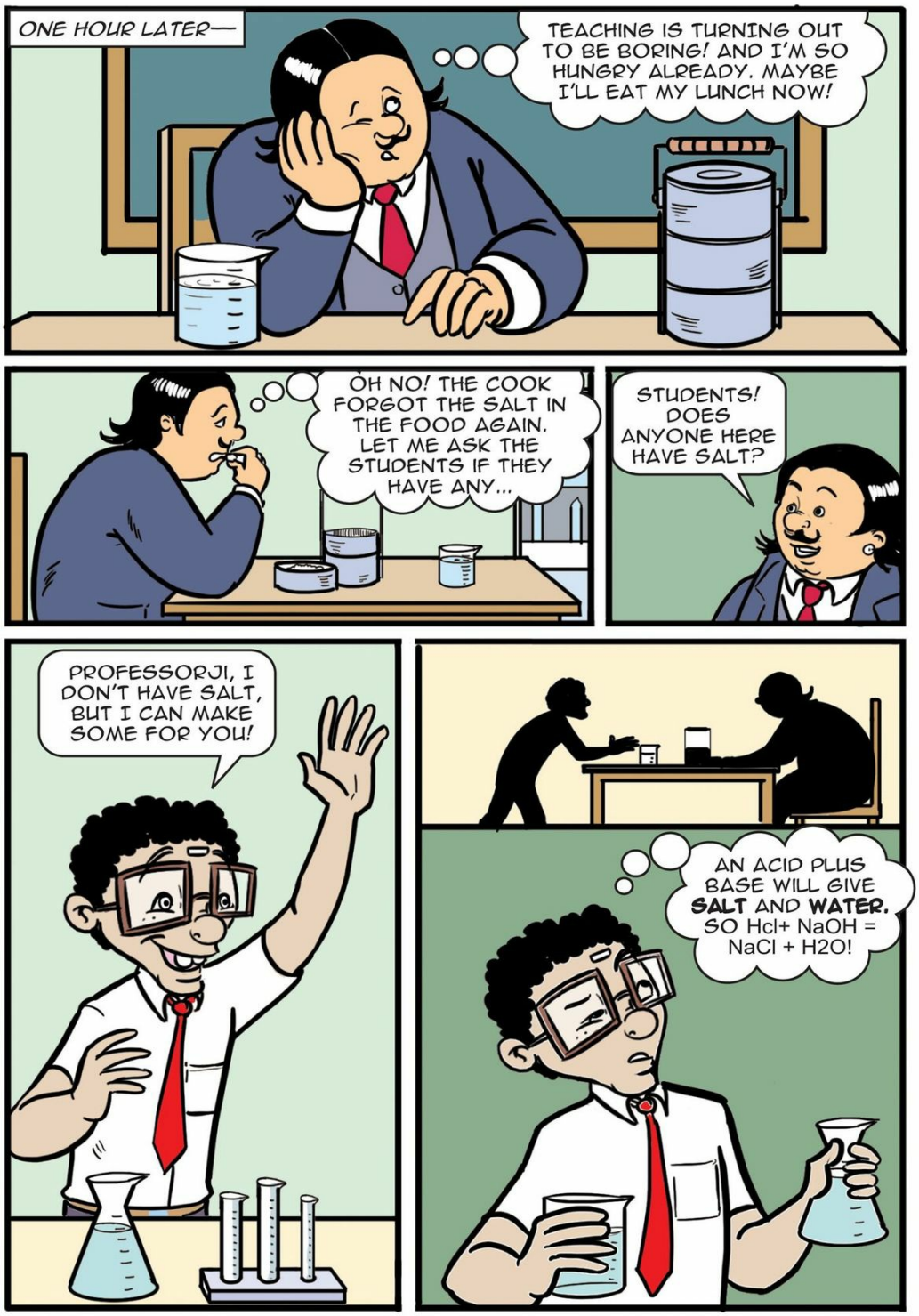
Story Eesha Ghate | **Script** Shriya Ghate | **Pencils & Inks** Vineet Nair | **Colours** Umesh Sarode | **Letters** Prasad Sawant

TANTRI, I MUST SAY I AM VERY JEALOUS. I HAVE ALWAYS WANTED TO TEACH.
OH, I DID NOT KNOW THAT YOU WERE INTERESTED IN TEACHING.
LIKE YOU EVER HAD ANYTHING TO TEACH ANYONE.
I WONDERED, WILL YOU TAKE ME WITH YOU? I WOULD LOVE TO BE WITH THE STUDENTS AND SHARE MY KNOWLEDGE.
BUT...
SIR, YOU ARE A KING. A TEACHER'S POST DOES NOT SUIT YOU.
TANTRI, I INSIST!
OF COURSE, YOUR HIGHNESS. I WILL ARRANGE FOR IT.
MAYBE I CAN USE THIS TO MY ADVANTAGE.

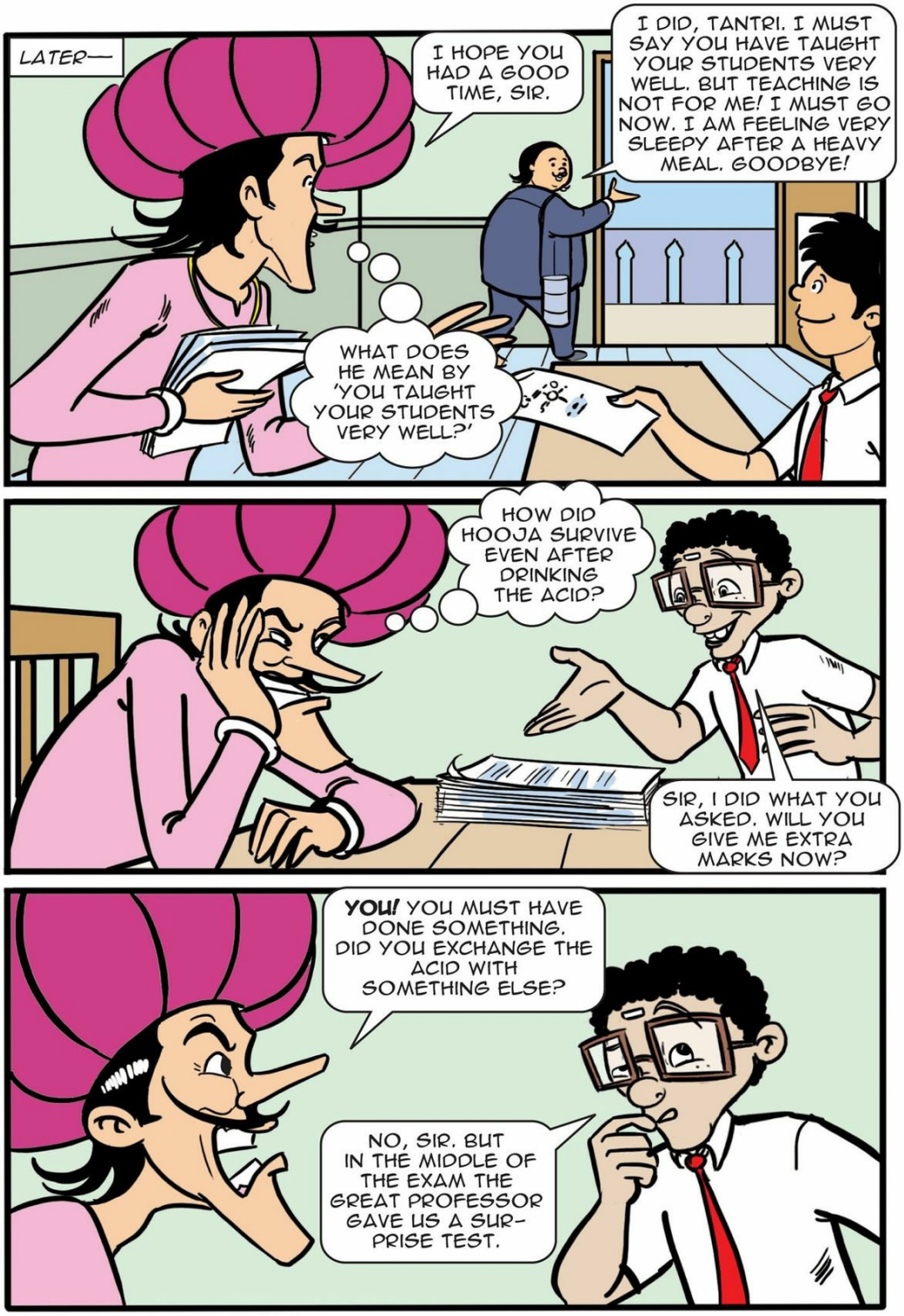
THE NEXT MORNING—
OH, POOR HOOJA. HE IS WALKING STRAIGHT INTO THE LION'S DEN. I MAY NOT BE THE KING OF HUJLI, BUT I AM THE KING OF CHEMISTRY. THIS TIME, HE IS FINISHED.
NOW TO LOOK FOR A STOOGE WHO WILL CARRY OUT MY ORDERS.
SUDDENLY—
SIR! SIR!
SEE, I CAME EARLY FOR THE PRACTICAL EXAM.
YES, YES. I SEE THAT.
SIR, MY NAME IS TIPU. DO YOU NEED ANY HELP, SIR?
UNDER NORMAL CIRCUMSTANCES, I WOULD HAVE CUT THIS IRRITATING BOY'S MARKS. BUT TODAY, I MIGHT JUST BE ABLE TO USE HIM...


YOU CAN DO ONE THING FOR ME.
I'LL DO ANY-THING, SIR.
GOOD, GOOD.
TAKE THIS BEAKER, AND GIVE IT TO THE SIR WHO WILL COME TO SUPERVISE THE PRAC-TICALS, OKAY?
SURE, SIR. WHAT IS IT?
THAT IS HCL—HYDROCHLORIC ACID. THE SUPERVISOR WANTS TO CHECK ITS PURITY. AND I AM GIVING YOU THE SPECIAL TASK TO HAND IT OVER TO HIM. YOU MUST TELL NO ONE. ONLY THEN WILL I GIVE YOU EXTRA MARKS.
OKAY, SIR.
A FEW MINUTES LATER—
GURUKUL SCHOOL
THE TRAP IS SET. ANY MOMENT NOW THAT FOOL HOOJA WILL COME TO THE LAB. TIPU WILL HAND HIM THE BEAKER AND I WILL TELL HIM THAT IT IS WATER. AS SOON AS HE DRINKS IT, HOOJA WILL GO BOOM! HAHAHAHA!


JUST THEN—
WELCOME, SIR, TO THE HUMBLE GURUKUL SCHOOL. YOUR PROFESSOR DISGUISE IS PERFECT. THEY WILL NEVER RECOGNISE YOU!
LATER—
I AM NERVOUS, TANTRI.
DON'T BE! I HAVE ALREADY TOLD THEM WHAT A GREAT PROFESSOR YOU ARE. BESIDES, THIS IS A PRACTICAL EXAM WHICH YOU HAVE TO SUPERVISE. YOU WILL HAVE TO SAY VERY LITTLE!
AND SOON, YOU WILL SAY NO WORDS AT ALL! HEHEHE!
STUDENTS, PROFESSOR H HERE WILL SUPERVISE YOUR EXAM. YOU HAVE ONE MINUTE TO SETTLE DOWN.
JUST THEN—
THIS IS WATER, RAJAJI. IN CASE YOU GET THIRSTY.


ONE HOUR LATER—
TEACHING IS TURNING OUT TO BE BORING! AND I'M SO HUNGRY ALREADY. MAYBE I'LL EAT MY LUNCH NOW!
OH NO! THE COOK FORGOT THE SALT IN THE FOOD AGAIN. LET ME ASK THE STUDENTS IF THEY HAVE ANY...
STUDENTS! DOES ANYONE HERE HAVE SALT?
PROFESSORJI, I DON'T HAVE SALT, BUT I CAN MAKE SOME FOR YOU!
AN ACID PLUS BASE WILL GIVE **SALT** AND **WATER.** SO Hcl+ NaOH = NaCl + H2O!

SOON–
HERE IS YOUR SALT, PROFESSORJI.
WOW. THANK YOU.
JUST IN TIME! NOW THE BUFFOON WILL SURELY BURN!
BURP! THAT WAS A GOOD MEAL.
HOW ON EARTH DID THAT HAPPEN?! I PUT THE ACID IN THERE MYSELF!


LATER—
I HOPE YOU HAD A GOOD TIME, SIR.
I DID, TANTRI. I MUST SAY YOU HAVE TAUGHT YOUR STUDENTS VERY WELL. BUT TEACHING IS NOT FOR ME! I MUST GO NOW. I AM FEELING VERY SLEEPY AFTER A HEAVY MEAL. GOODBYE!
WHAT DOES HE MEAN BY 'YOU TAUGHT YOUR STUDENTS VERY WELL?'
HOW DID HOOJA SURVIVE EVEN AFTER DRINKING THE ACID?
SIR, I DID WHAT YOU ASKED. WILL YOU GIVE ME EXTRA MARKS NOW?
YOU! YOU MUST HAVE DONE SOMETHING. DID YOU EXCHANGE THE ACID WITH SOMETHING ELSE?
NO, SIR. BUT IN THE MIDDLE OF THE EXAM THE GREAT PROFESSOR GAVE US A SUR-PRISE TEST.

HE WANTED US TO MAKE SALT! SO I TOOK THE ACID AND MIXED A BASE IN IT. AS A RESULT I GOT SALT AND WATER! NOW, WILL YOU GIVE ME MY MARKS?
WHY DID YOU HAVE TO DO THAT, YOU FOOL!
SIR, I WAS ONLY BEING PRACTICAL!
OH NO. I GUESS I REALLY DID TEACH MY STUDENTS VERY WELL.

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